

DEPARTMENT.

Branch.

File No.

3/8

CORRESPONDENCE.

19

Subject.

Cor. with Corissa ministers

Lot 39

[1]

III-2-39-I

From

April 1946.

to

February 1948.

1746-48

New Delhi,
24th February 1948.

Thank you for your letter

No. 580-NFM dated the 14th February
1948 about Kharaswan and Seraikella.

I have read the correspondence enclosed
with it with interest.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable
Mr. Harekrishna Mahtab,
Prime Minister, Orissa
Government, Cuttack.

By Air Mail

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CUTTACK

The 14th February 1948

HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB
PRIME MINISTER
HOME, FINANCE AND PLANNING
ORISSA

D.O.no. 5-80-HRM

Respected Sardarji,

I send herewith copies of correspondence which passed between me and Rajendra Babu. Since it was evinced that we had tricked the Government of India into doing what they did, I had to write frank letters to Rajendra Babu. I am really very much grieved that even Rajendra Babu could hold opinions without hearing the other side.

Yours sincerely
Harekrushna Mahtab

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Deputy Prime Minister, Govt. of India,
New Delhi.

Dear Sardarji,
I have received your letter of 14th Feb. 1948 regarding the matter of the Orissa Government. I have read it and am sorry to hear that you are not satisfied with the Orissa Government. I am sure that the Orissa Government will do its best to satisfy you.

3
Cuttack,
The 12th January, 1948.

My dear Rajendra Babu,

I have been thinking of writing to you for some time past but I was wondering whether it would be proper on my part to address you at any stage regarding the working of Congress organisation in the provinces. But I think I have to write to you for, as it appears to me, things are moving adrift and ultimately the Congress cause may suffer. I would draw your personal attention to the fact and circumstances in which the Orissa States have been amalgamated with the province. You know, we have been agitating for this unanimously for the last 10 years and much blood has been split over this question. Since 1938 all over the States and the Province there has all along been one slogan - AMALGAMATION OF STATES WITH THE PROVINCE. You will please remember that these small States had no sovereignty at any time but they were bolstered up by the British Government for their own purposes as has been admitted in several of their documents. If you have time I shall show you how I have moved from pillar to post, from Sir Stafford Cripps to Nawab of Bhopal, to have these small States differentiated from the rest in India and you will be interested to know that all without any exception have agreed that the Orissa States stand on a different footing. Now after the 15th of August when this question was taken up by the Dominion Government and when it was fairly clear that the States should be called upon to merge in the province some of the Rulers very cleverly set up some popular leaders or purchased some of them to oppose amalgamation of the States with the province. For this purpose nominal responsible Government was given. In this all have failed except Mayurbhanj. There the leader of the Prajamandal Sri Sarat Chandra Das has been appointed the Prime Minister by the Ruler and nominal responsible Government has been granted but the feeling in Mayurbhanj is very much against him. Of course, I do not quarrel with him, and so long as the leaders do not agree, it is not desirable to quarrel with the Ruler. But you will please excuse me if I say that in these circumstances it is not fair either to the people or to us that you as the Congress President should write to Sri Sarat Chandra Das, Premier of Mayurbhanj, congratulating him on his manoeuvre and on the manoeuvre of the Ruler. Of course the general public will be led to think that you have been misled, but even then why should a chance be given to anybody to take advantage of your opinion for any purpose?

With regard to Serikella and Kharaswan, I do not propose to discuss whether they should join with Orissa or with Bihar. Let me assume without admitting that Serikella and Kharaswan ought to amalgamate with Bihar and the Dominion Government have placed their administrations temporarily in the hands of the Orissa Government, is it justified that the Bihar Congress leaders should start a public campaign against the Orissa Government which is run by Congress? I suppose you have seen the vituperations in the Search Light and the reports of abusive speeches delivered by Sri Srikrishna Singh and Sri Binodananda Jha. They are my best friends. I do not understand how all of them lost their equilibrium and without any reference to me they began to abuse us in open meetings and in the press. If the Provincial Governments run by the same political party behave in this way, what would happen if the provinces are run by diametrically opposite parties? Do not you think there has been something wrong in the organisation? I am glad to inform you that not a single word has been uttered against any of the Bihar leaders here in Orissa and I have taken steps to see that no bitter criticism is made either in the press or in the platform against Bihar. The way in which the Search Light has led the campaign and the way in which the Bihar Congress leaders have allowed themselves to speak lends support to the information that the Rulers of these two States have been scheming to evade the issue of amalgamation under some pretext or other. Do you know how the President of the Prajamandal of Kharaswan was purchased and at what cost? I think you must have known that several industrial and business concerns are interested in the future of these two States and some of them are openly distributing money for their purposes. Whatever others might do,

can we not as Congressmen restrain ourselves and submit to some arbitration? Today I hear on the radio that the Dominion Government are going to appoint an impartial tribunal to decide the question of Kharaswan and Seraikella. This has been promised and agreed to long ago. Why then was there so much agitation? If the Bihar Congress has the right to enquire into firings in areas under the administration of the Orissa Government, the Orissa Congress has got the similar right to enquire into the firings and murders which have taken place in Singhbhum since the last election and publish their opinion on the subject. Do you think, if the Orissa Congress does it, you will appreciate it?

I could not know whom to write to about these simple matters. I thought I would unburden myself by writing to you. Hope you will not mind it.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. H. Mahtab.

The Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad,
President, All India Congress Committee,
6 Jantarmanter Road, New Delhi.

1, Queen Victoria Road.
New Delhi, the 19th January 1948.

My dear Mahtab,

I have received your letter dated the 12th instant, but I could not write to you earlier because I was busy with the arrangements in connection with Mahatma Gandhi's fast. I do not know anything about the Praja Mandal that has been operating in the Mayurbhanj State. I do not remember to have done anything to help or hinder the work of the Praja Mandal but it is possible that I might have received a communication from Shri Sarat Chandra Das informing me that responsible Government has been established there and I might have sent him a reply congratulating him and the ruler on the establishment of responsible Government. There is no question of my doing anything to bolster up the claim of the ruler or the Praja Mandal and if I have written, it has been in the ordinary course on the basis that genuine reform has been introduced there. So if there is anything wrong in my hasty congratulation, you may take it that that has been on the misunderstanding that reforms are genuine. I have not been associated with the Praja Mandals' work anywhere and I had no means of knowing that anything impurious is going on in the State by a body under that name.

As regards the amalgamation of Saraikella and Kharswan I am sorry that things have taken a course which is most undesirable. As far as I have been able to judge the feeling in Bihar is very strong and that is based on a sense of wrong that is genuinely felt there. I have not seen the abusive speeches delivered by Shri Shri Krishna Sinha and Shri Bonoda Nand Jha or in the Searchlight to which you refer. The wrong that is felt is that things have been manoeuvred in a way which was not straight. You know that before Orissa was created as a separate province, the question of including Singhbhum within Orissa was raised and an impartial boundary commission was appointed. It went into the matter very fully and because the local feeling was overwhelmingly in favour of the district remaining in Bihar, the commission ultimately decided to allow Singhbhum to continue in Bihar. After that decision which was taken only some years ago, it was expected that if any question of amalgamating any area which fell within the district of Singhbhum with Orissa arose, Bihar and people of Singhbhum particularly should have been consulted or at any rate given an opportunity to put their point of view before the authority dealing with the subject. Bihar was taken by surprise. Although you and I have met so many times you have never mentioned to me that there was any idea of amalgamating these two particular states with Orissa. Sardar Vallabhbhai knew nothing about the local feelings or the previous history as far as I can judge and he accepted your suggestion of treating these two states on the same footing as the Orissa States. It was this feeling of having been overreached which is responsible for the bitterness that has arisen. I have not been in touch either with the rulers of these two States or with any one else there and I do not know how the President of the Praja Mandal of Kharswan was purchased and by whom and at what cost. Instead of writing to me after so much has happened, after blood has been spilt if you had cared to do it earlier, much could have been avoided but I do not know why you did not think it worth while to tell me anything about it before. I hope it is not yet too late to settle the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. Rajendra Prasad.

The Hon'ble Shri Harekrishna Mahtab.
Prime Minister, Orissa, Cuttack.

The 27th January 1948.

My dear Rajendra Babu,

Your letter dated the 19th January, 1948. I must confess that I am really surprised to know that you seem to think that there is justification for a Congress Government of a province to run down a Congress Government of another province openly without reference to the Central Congress organisation, if one Government feels wronged for some reason. Next it appears from your letter that you seem to think that there has been some manoeuvring in taking over the two States into Orissa. I thought it was not necessary for me to recapitulate the history of the last ten years' struggle for the emancipation of States' subjects, but I have to clear your doubt at least. You know, in 1938 the All Orissa States' People's Conference was held at Cuttack under the Presidency of Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya and in that Conference representatives of all the Orissa States including the States of Seraikela and Kharwan joined. That Conference appointed an Enquiry Committee, of which I was the Chairman. The report of that Enquiry Committee is a famous document now and it was commented upon by all newspapers of India and England too. You will find in that report details of the grievances of the people of Seraikela and Kharwan. This is just to show that the movement in the States was something different from the movement for amalgamation of Singhbhum with the province. I will be surprised if the Congress leaders of Bihar today say that they were unaware of the gigantic movement in the States in 1938. You know, hundreds were killed by the British Military and thousands were imprisoned at that time. It was a historic movement and I do not think any ordinary newspaper reader can even pretend to be ignorant about it. The Enquiry Committee recommended that for the improvement of the administration in all these small States they should be incorporated in the neighbouring province of Orissa. Till then there was no question of amalgamation of the States with the province. That report was taken into consideration by the then Government of India and the principle was accepted long ago although there was difference with regard to details both between the province and the States and between the province and the Centre. Then in 1943 when the new Utkal University was created, both the States of Kharwan and Seraikela along with the other Orissa States joined with the University. One of the sons of the Ruler of Seraikela is a Member of the Senate of the Utkal University. On the contrary Patna University agreed to it. There was not a single protest at that time from any quarter as to why these two States should come under the Orissa University. It is a known fact and this can be verified even today that the court language in these two States has all along been Oriya for the last hundreds of years. There is not a single document of any other language in these two States. Apart from the inclusion of these two States in the University, frequent negotiations for administrative reasons have taken place between the Orissa States including Kharwan and Seraikela with the province for the last so many years. When the question of amalgamation of Orissa States with the province was taken up by the Central Government, as a matter of course this was done. There was no manoeuvring about it. You will be surprised to know and I have got letters to show you that at a certain stage the leaders of the people of Seraikela and Kharwan were advised to approach the Bihar Premier for relief but the Bihar Premier has replied in writing that he would place the matter before his Cabinet and ultimately he did not take interest in the people's movement. In spite of all this long history of the movement in the States, I do not think it lies in anybody's mouth that there was any kind of manoeuvring in bringing these two States into this province. Now that the way to amalgamation of the States with the province has been made clear by us, others are coming in to have some share in it. If the feeling in Bihar is strong, the feeling in Orissa also is strong. Mutual vituperation and appeal to force, I am sure, cannot be supported because of the feeling in some province. The way in which the Oriya speaking people in Singhbhum are now being harassed by the officials there because of their sympathy for the amalgamation of Seraikela and Kharwan with Orissa need not be discussed here. I want to make it clear that there was no manoeuvring in this. If the result of ten years' hard struggle can be construed to be a sort of manoeuvre, then, I think, one is to be proud of it. I would appeal to you not to mix up the question of Singhbhum with these States. Please do not think that anybody deceived Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and got possession of these States. Now that a Tribunal has been appointed, can we not satisfy ourselves by simply placing our cases before the Tribunal? Is there any necessity of still carrying on violent propaganda even through Sri Jaipal Singh? I am

2. I have sufficient evidence to show that the Bihar Government is helping Adibasi agitators to come into Orissa States and create troubles. If you think there is justification for all these things, then the feeling in Bihar is high, then I have nothing more to say and things will take its own course. So far as we ourselves are concerned, I assure you that we will do nothing which will bring discredit to the Congress Organisation and which will ever be proved as a sham or even a trick before any impartial tribunal.

Yours sincere

Sd. H. Mahtab.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
President, All India Congress Committ.
1, Queen Victoria Road.
New Delhi.

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1 Queen Victoria Road,
New Delhi, The 7th February, 1948.

My dear Mahtab,

I have received your letter of the 27th January. Please excuse me for the delay in replying, the reason for which you can easily understand. My grievance is that the Prajamandal movement in the States has been utilised for amalgamating the two States into Orissa. [As we all know all these Prajamandal movements were for the purpose of securing for the people responsible Government in the States which they could run according to their wishes. It was never a part of the Prajamandal movement so far as I know to bring about amalgamation of particular tracts within British India as it was before the 15th August. The grievance is that the Prajamandal movement there has been mixed up with the movement for amalgamation of Singhbhum with Orissa and this has been achieved. I do not of course approve of one province quarreling with another when there is a centre to deal with these things, but I told you the reasons why people were agitated. Now that the tribunal has been appointed, I suppose there is nothing more to do than placing the case before it. As a matter of fact two or three days ago I had a telephonic talk with Patna and I believe the Prime Minister would be contacting you in this connection so that you both may find some way out.] I do not know what connection Bihar Government has got with Mr. Jaipal Singh. All I know is that the Government of Bihar and Mr. Jaipal Singh have not been on the best of terms and the Adibasi movement is looked upon with greatest suspicion in Bihar.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. Rajendra Prasad.

The Hon'ble Shri Harekrishna Mahtab,
Prime Minister, Orissa,
Cuttack.

7

Cuttack,
The 13th February, 1948.

D.O.no. 562/HPM

My dear Rajendra Babu,

Your letter dated the 7th February 1948:

Now you are the President of the Indian National Congress and I have to represent my views most respectfully. [I am really surprised that you do not know the resolutions not only of the Prajamandals of the Orissa States but also of the All India States People's Conference. I am grieved to read your remark that the Prajamandal movement in the States has been utilised for amalgamating the two States into Orissa.] I wish the President of the Indian National Congress had not made this gross mis-statement of facts! Since 1938 the Prajamandals have been pressing for amalgamation of the States with the neighbouring province of Orissa. You may verify this statement from Sri Balabantarai Mehta who was a member of the Enquiry Committee set up in 1938. You may know the facts from Sri Balabantarai Mehta. The All India States People's Conference have passed a number of resolutions since 1938 expressing the opinion that smaller States should be amalgamated with the neighbouring provinces. Particularly with regard to Orissa States, the All India States People's Conference have unequivocally passed resolutions in favour of amalgamation with the province. How shall I believe that the President of the Indian National Congress does not know these well-known resolutions of the All India States People's Conference and those of the Orissa States about which agitation has been going on for the last 10 years and which are known to even ordinary worker of the States! There is no question of mixing up the issues regarding States and Singhbhum. Shall I take it that you are misinformed? Your information regarding Bihar Government's attitude towards Jaipal Singh also is incorrect. What shall I say more? I am really puzzled to know that the President of the Indian National Congress is so misinformed and he acts upon wrong information without listening to the other side. There is a proverb in Oriya which says that if the fence, meant to protect crop, eats the crop itself, there is no remedy. Is it too much for me to expect that the President of the Congress should keep an open mind and should hear the other side also? From your two letters it appears, you have closed your mind against Orissa and you do not think it wrong to attribute motives to those who worked for the States for the last 10 years. In these circumstances, shall I be wrong if I am inclined to think that justice and fairness is being sacrificed for other interests. I beg of you to excuse me if my letter is rather strongly worded. I would appeal to you again to verify facts from Sri Balabantarai Mehta who is a member of the Congress Working Committee and who is closely associated with the movement in the States in Orissa since 1938. I can assure you that here in this province those of us who are in the Congress have no provincial feeling at all and on that score we have been and are being severely criticised by others. I wonder if you know Sri Sarangadhar Das who is one of the Secretaries of the All India States People's Conference. He is the President of the Regional Council for the Eastern States. You can know all about him from Sri Balabantarai Mehta. What shall I say about all these things when you betray utter ignorance of all facts regarding the States' people's movements except what you gather from the headlines in newspapers? Now that the tribunal has been appointed, the question of Seraikella and Kharaswan is closed; but what remains today for me and for our province is the attitude of the Congress President in these provincial matters.

Yours sincerely,
Sd. H. Mahtab.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad,
President, & Indian National Congress,
1-Queel Victoria Road, New Delhi.

My dear Rajendra Babu,

In continuation of my letter of yesterday, I venture to write again today for I feel very much uncomfortable that our President should remain either so much uninformed of or prejudiced against Orissa. As regards the amalgamation of the Orissa States with the Province, I have already written to you that the agitation is at least 10 years old and from the beginning Sri Balabantarsai Mehta, a member of the Congress Working Committee, is associated with this movement. Negotiations on the basis of amalgamation of the Orissa States with the Province has been going on between Rulers and the Orissa Government for some years past. Definite proposals were made to the Cabinet Mission when they came here in 1946. Proposals were made to Lord Wavell when the Interim Government was not formed. The Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes was approached in this connection. The question of amalgamation was taken up both by the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes and by the Orissa Government since 1946. If you kindly ask your Secretary in the Constituent Assembly Sri B.N. Rao, he will tell you that he was approached by the Orissa Government to suggest constitutional means by which the administration of the Orissa States would be integrated with that of the Province. He was kind enough to study the matter and make some suggestions. These suggestions again were discussed by the Rulers and the Orissa Provincial Government. All along the demand of the Prajamandals of the Orissa States has been 'amalgamation with the Province'. At each stage of the negotiation with the Government of India, I have kept Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel informed of developments. I got Gandhiji also informed of these matters. If you like I shall show you letters from Gandhiji in this connection. You will be interested to know that Gandhiji himself advocated amalgamation of the Orissa States with the Province and he had his blessings since 1946. All these I write to you to show that amalgamation of the Orissa States with the Province is neither a 'manoeuvre' nor a trick played by either the Prajamandals or by the Orissa Provincial Government. You may not have the misapprehension that it is the Government of India and Sardar Patel who initiated the integration of the administration of the States with that of the Province. It is the Orissa Government which took the initiative in the matter and it is Pandit Jawaharlal's Government and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who accepted the Orissa Government's position. In this matter, we in Orissa have got the justification to be proud of our initiative - it may not be pleasing to others who did not raise their little finger in this matter till the question was decided upon. It is not the fault of either the Orissa Government or any of the Prajamandals that Seraikela and Kharswan were included in the category of Orissa States. It is neither the fault of Orissa Government nor of the Regional Council for the Eastern States that the Prajamandals of Seraikela and Kharswan were led by Oriya speaking people since 1938. As soon as the amalgamation of the Orissa States with the Province showed signs of materialisation, some of the Rulers caught hold of some leaders of Prajamandals and promised them responsible Government in the States in order to avoid amalgamation. It is a fact that some leaders of the Prajamandals played into the hands of the Rulers and could deceive man of your position also. It is for this reason, I protested against your blessing the Prajamandal of Mayurbhanj. Of course, I did not know that you were against amalgamation of the States with the Province. You have never expressed your opinion on the subject. Now, at this stage, if you hold the view that we in Orissa have manoeuvred the amalgamation and have deceived Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, I think, you are doing injustice to us and doing a great service to the Rulers. Your letter of the 7th February will surely be liked by some of the Rulers of the province, specially the Ruler of Seraikela. I am told you are very bitter about Seraikela and Kharswan having been integrated with the province of Orissa. Why is this so? Is it in the interest of the Adibasis who are in majority there? In that case, is it the demand of the Adibasis that they should integrate with the province of Bihar? I have got the printed speeches of Jaipal Singh to show that they want a separate province for themselves and wherever they will go they will go together, and if Orissa would agree to take in all the Adibasi areas, then they would support amalgamation with Orissa. On this basis, Mr. Jaipal Singh is carrying on negotiation with some leaders of the Utkal Samilani here. You have raised the question of Singhbhum here. Assuming, the figures show that certain areas of Singhbhum are predominantly Oriya speaking, leaving aside the aborigines, what right has Bihar to claim those areas as belonging to Bihar? If it is

decided that the wishes of the Adibasis should be taken into account, then their movement for a separate province should be supported and agreed to by all of us. It is really unfortunate that at this stage when communalism is running high in this country, provincialism also should be allowed to have its play. I would request you most humbly that you will please keep your mind open and know things first before you begin to attribute motives. I am very sorry that I have been compelled to write to you these letters, but as it appears to me I have no other way.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. H. Mahtab.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
President, Indian National Congress.
1, Queen Victoria Road, New Delhi.

RADHAKRISHNA BISWASROY

MINISTER
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
CUTTACK

CUTTACK

27th December

194

Backward Classes Welfare.

D.O.No. 483/HM(W & BW).

Most Respected Sardarji,

I send herewith a copy of
my press statement for your kind
perusal.

Yours sincerely,

R.K. Biswasroy
27/12/45

File

Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhai Patel,
Deputy Prime Minister of India,
NEW DELHI.

10

Press Statement of SRI R.K. BISWASROY, Minister, Public Works and Backward
Classes Welfare Departments, Orissa, Cuttack dated 27-12-1947.

In the midst of our rejoicing over great happenings such as the merging of the Orissa States with Orissa, it is our duty to pay our homage to Sardar Patel and through him to the Indian Union Government of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Sardar Patel has set at rest for all time to come the strife, suffering, agony and anxiety of two crores of Oriya population spread over the length and breadth of the land through his magic wand in one day by his august presence in Orissa. This is a memorable day for two crores of Oriyas which they will never forget till eternity and for which they are inextricably bound by bonds of indebtedness to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and the Union Government.

Sardar Patel and Panditji are too great to need any raising by me to the pinnacle of further greatness and glory. I know that the waters of small rivers and streams make no change in the waters of mighty oceans nor in their size. Still it is our bare duty to pay our most respectful homage to our respected and beloved leaders and express our greatest loyalty to the Union Government.

I, therefore, assure Panditji and Sardarji of New Orissa's loyalty and readiness to a man to serve the Union Government at all events.

" JAY HIND "

The Editor, Hindustan Times, Delhi. /
Amrit Bazar Patrika / Hindustan Standard /
Samaj, Cuttack / Praja Tarana, Cuttack /
New Orissa, Cuttack / Prajaban, Jajpore /

R. K. Biswasroy
MINISTER,
P.W.D., and B.C.W.

27/12/47

Ind
22/12

11

Telegram State

EXPRESS

HAREKRISHNA MAHTAB
CHIEF MINISTER
ORISSA

MANY THANKS YOUR TELEGRAM STOP WE GLADLY
ACCEPT YOUR OFFER OF HOSPITALITY

VALLABHBHAI

NEW DELHI, the 3rd December 1947.

hm

Personal Assistant to the Hon'ble
the Home Minister.

(X)



12

1882

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

Name
Office

Code

No.



Sent from

Sent at

H

M

To

By

Forwarded to at (Office of Origin)

Date

Hour

Minute

Service Instructions

Verbs

TO 000 SD CUTTACK 27 GTE PTY 41

Paid, here at

H

SD

IMMEDIATE SARDAR VALLABHSHAI PATEL NEWDELHI

N 7245/ HPM FEEL HAPPIEST THAT YOU ARE COMING TO CUTTACK ON

THIRTEENTH STOP EARNESTLY REQUEST YOU TO BE MY GUEST STOP YOURSELF

MANI BEN AND YOUR PRIVATE SECRETARY WILL STAY WITH ME - MAITAB

N.B.—The name of the sender, if telegraphed, should be written after, but separated from, the text.

At 1200—25 10-45—125.000 Bha

(7)

New Delhi.
The 19th Nov. 1947.

13

Thank you for your letter dated the 13th November, 1947, and for a copy of your letter to Jawaharlal.

2. Some of the Eastern States seem to be out to give us trouble, but we also know how to meet their threats. We are discussing these matters with Mehtab and you can depend on us to take a firm line.

3. The question regarding a separate High Court for Orissa concerns the Ministry of Home Affairs. If there are any concrete proposals, I would suggest that your Government sends them to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Yours sincerely,

His Excellency
Dr. Kailash Nath Katju,
Governor of Orissa,
Government House,
Cuttack.

G.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE.
CUTTACK.

14

Nov. 13, 1947

My dear Sardar Sahib,

Very many thanks for
your letter. Maharaja Gwalia
I am indebted to for releasing
my nephew, Capt. Katji, for
service here. He has arrived
and taken over charge.

As I did the last time, to avoid
repetition I am enclosing a copy
of a letter which I am sending
today to Jawaharlal.

You are much troubled by
these States these days. Some of
these Eastern States are so petty.
They are mere municipalities in
size. And I don't think even
their Praya mandals can

(X)

SELOM THOMAS
MAY 1910

provide much of administrative talent. The only solution is merger into bigger wholes. You know my home is at Jaora in Central India and I keep in touch with the events there. I have been here now for three months, almost in prison at Cuttack and Puri, because I was given to much touring in the U.P. I shall now go about in the cold weather. I hope flying agrees with you and you take care to keep fit. Your health is of national importance. With respectful regards, Yours truly, K. B. K. K.

Secret & Personal.

15
Government House,
Cuttack.
The 15th November, 1947.

(My dear Jawaharlal),

I should have thanked you earlier for your letter of the 3rd October, but in view of your important preoccupations I deliberately postponed writing. Meanwhile I have also received your letter dated the 6th instant about the proposed Governors' Conference early next year. Personally I would welcome this conference - so would all others, I imagine, because it would enable me to contact once again the broad stream of national life and to know something of the broad national policies from you and other Ministers.

2. It is good news that we may expect a flying visit from you for the purpose of inaugurating the great Hirakud Dam Project. Since it was unanimously approved in the Orissa Legislative Assembly, local agitation against it in Sambalpur seems to have died down, but only two days back I received a copy of resolutions said to have been passed at a meeting of the so-called "Sambalpur District Conference", suggesting that in view of the criticisms levelled at the whole project by one Mr. Rangaiya, retired Civil Engineer of Mysore, it was desirable that it should be further considered by a very high level Expert Committee. Mahatab is going to Delhi to attend a conference about the financing of this project, and I have suggested to him that if Mr. Rangaiya possesses adequate reputation in the engineering world, it may be desirable for your Chief Engineer Khosla to issue some sort of a Press Note meeting one or two of the points raised in Rangaiya's memorandum. I say this because it seems to be the brief of the Sambalpur people and I should not be surprised if it is made much of when the construction operations actually begin.

3. The communal situation in the Province, so far as my information goes, continues to be satisfactory, though I heard some grumbling recently from the Muslim M.L.A. from Sambalpur.

HD

(X)

16
It seems that some people have been thinking
Hyderabad. A visitor, Ghoudhury Mohammed Is
resident of Barisal in Eastern Bengal but also
Orissa and was formerly for many years a Memb
Legislative Assembly, called on me. He said
Cutack had told him of their desire to migra
the reason why, they told him that they were
he had tried to dissuade them from migrating
that they would not be welcome in Eastern Ben
find conditions of life exceedingly difficult
is plain that the Muslims in Orissa, like Mus
thoroughly miss with the keenest regret all t
the weightage system had previously conferred

4. Developments in Junagadh, Kashmir and
broadcast that India was faced with grave dan
aroused much interest and comment here and, t
time being free from any complications, I per
would be desirable if a larger supply of arms
to us. The Provincial Government would then
take steps to make their Civil Police Force a
body to meet all emergencies.

5. The position in the Eastern States con
unsatisfactory. Two or three States are, ver
eye. One reads every day Rulers coming out
statements about grant of responsible Govern
these States are not bigger than our medium-s
in the United Provinces, and for them to talk
governments in their own States, appointment
Judges and so forth is ridiculous. Their fi
cannot permit them to maintain the parapherna
even in Lilliputian miniature. I suggest the
be carefully considered and the Rulers told h
stand. It seems to me that in view of their
States cannot have any self-sufficient Admini
or irresponsible.

6. I have now been here three months, and

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limitations imposed by the rainy season, I have inspected Cuttack, Puri and Bhubaneswar and adjacent areas pretty closely. I have been forcibly impressed with the need of development of these towns. Cuttack has no water works nor any drainage scheme. The matter has been under examination for years past and schemes are now awaiting final orders of the Provincial Government. The drainage scheme would cost about half a crore of rupees, but unless that is taken in hand, public health of Cuttack (which is growing in population) will continue to be in grave danger. Puri and Bhubaneswar can be definitely made into beautiful health resorts in India. Bhubaneswar has been selected as the site for the future capital of Orissa, and the capital site, like New Delhi, is about four miles away from the old existing town. I have suggested to Mahtab that it is essential that in building a new Bhubaneswar, the old Bhubaneswar should not be neglected. Otherwise we will have the ^{right} ~~case~~ of a modern well-planned town with slums in its suburbs. At comparatively little expense old Bhubaneswar with its world-famous Temples and broad streets and beautiful tanks can be modernised and made a part of the new Bhubaneswar. Mahtab agrees with me, and action will be taken accordingly.

7. There is one point in this connection which I may mention here as it may be of general interest elsewhere in India. When I visited Bhubaneswar a fortnight ago, I was informed that owing to the selection of Bhubaneswar as the site of the new capital, land and house prices have, in the town and round about, increased enormously as much as 1000 per cent. For what one could buy for Rs. 1,000 three years back, prices now range between Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000. I see no reason why the landlords should be permitted to pocket all this enormous unearned profit. I have therefore suggested the propriety of Government acquiring all the land in the town and in its neighbourhood suitable for building ^{it} ~~that~~ I may call pre-capital prices and then Government may well, after proper town-planning scheme has been made out, sell the entire available land at decent prices. I have no doubt that in this way most of the cost of improvement and development will be recovered. The exorbitant profits made, or likely to be made, on transfers of

existing house properties should also, by proper taxation, accrue to the State to a substantial extent. This proposal is under examination, and Mahtab has told me that he agrees with it in principle.

8. I received recently from the Government of India, ^{a letter about} the procedure to be followed with reference to appointments of Chief Justices and Judges of the High Court. You know, Orissa has not got a High Court of its own. It has got only a Circuit Court when two Judges from the Patna High Court come four times a year for a month at a time on Circuit to hear Orissa appeals. For these services the Orissa Government pays to Bihar a fixed sum every year. The present position, however, is that there is great congestion of business and more than 1,800 appeals are in arrears and many important cases, including death sentence appeals, are heard at Patna. Under the present arrangements there is no chance whatever of these arrears being cleared within a reasonable time. I have gone into this question very carefully with facts and figures, and it seems to me that in the public interest it would be desirable to establish a High Court in Orissa with a minimum strength of four Judges. This would be in consonance with the desire of the people of Orissa and would raise the status of the Province in national estimation. With the establishment of a High Court it would also be easy to devise a scheme by which administration of criminal justice can be placed more directly under the administrative control of the High Court. I am requesting Mahtab to discuss this question with you. I have expressed my views to him in a long note upon it. I may add that a joint High Court for a bigger Orissa (including the Eastern States) with six or seven judges will be a great institution and inspire general confidence.

9. Another matter of local interest, but affecting the Hindu community at large all over India, is that of the proper administration of the Jagannath Temple. During the previous Ministry 1938-39, two Private Bills were introduced to secure better management of the Temple affairs, but before those Bills could be considered, the Ministry resigned. Since then the

19

Orissa Religious Endowments Act has been passed for better control of Temples and other Religious Endowments. It may be, however, desirable, having regard to the all-India position of the Jagannath Temple, to enact a special Act in regard to this Temple. Puri, as you may be aware, goes back to three thousand years. The present Temple itself was constructed 900 years ago, and it would be more in keeping with the dignity of the institution to provide for its management by a self-contained Act applicable to it. This matter also is engaging the attention of the Provincial Government.

10. I am very glad to inform you that we are acutely alive to the necessity for the establishment of a proper system of Local Self-Government in villages in Orissa and a Bill on the lines of the Panchayat Raj Act, recently passed in the United Provinces, is in preparation and will soon be placed before the Legislative Assembly. When that is passed, it would be a great day for the rural communities in Orissa. Government must act urgently, because official reports indicate a widespread desire on the part of the Socialist and Communist parties to capture power in villages by forming Panchayats and raising volunteer forces for various purposes including administration of justice.

11. The Orissa Textile Mill buildings, in which the Provincial Government hold a substantial interest, are under construction, and the mill should get into production in another six months. I have inspected the mill area, spread over 700 acres. The labour colony, over 600 acres, is a self-contained unit with airy and sanitary buildings for staff and workers, school and dispensary, playing fields, water works, and other amenities. It is definitely the most up-to-date mill that I have seen in India.

This letter dealing with many matters of reconstruction and development may provide a change-over to you in your military and semi-military problems.

Yours truly
(Sd) K. K. Bhatnagar

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This letter dealing with many matters of reconstruction and development may provide a change-over to you in your military and semi-military problems.

Yours truly
(Sd) K. K. K. K.

70
New Delhi.
The 25th Oct. 1947.

Thank you for your letter
of the 17th October, 1947. You
can come any day in the morning
from the 27th instant to 29th
instant at 5.30.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon'ble Shri N. Kanungo,
C/o The Receptionist,
Western Court,
New Delhi.

G.

N. KANUNGO

MINISTER, LAW, DEVELOPMENT
COMMERCE AND LABOUR, ORISSA

21
CUTTACK

The 17th October 1947.

Dear Sardarji,

I shall be in Delhi from 27th to 31st instant and shall be obliged if I may have an opportunity of meeting you for a few minutes. Your convenient time and place may kindly be communicated to the address given below*.

I am going there in connection with the Regional Labour Conference; and as the Conference will be meeting during the usual office hours, I would get only the mornings and evenings free. Your reply may kindly be marked "TO AWAIT ARRIVAL".

Yours sincerely,

N. Kanungo
(Nityanand Kanungo).

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
Minister for Home, India.
New Delhi.

*Sjt. Nityanand Kanungo,
C/O. The Receptionist, Western Court.
New Delhi.

PERSONAL.



72
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
CUTTACK
The 14th October, 1947.

My dear Sardar Sahib,

On his return from Delhi Mahatabji saw me this morning and told me that he had mentioned to you my desire to appoint my nephew, who is a Captain in the Gwalior Army, as an ADC on the household staff, and that you had kindly expressed a desire that I should write to you about the matter so that you might help me in getting his services from the Gwalior Durbar.

My nephew is Gyan Nath Katju. He is an Infantry Officer in the 4th Infantry Regiment of the Gwalior Army. In 1942 he went Overseas where his services were very much appreciated. On return he was selected for training in the Staff College at Quetta, and at present he is an officer in the Army Headquarters. As I had met Srinivasan, who is now the Vice-President of the Executive Council at Gwalior, during the Constituent Assembly Session, I have written to him requesting for the loan of the services of my nephew, and have told him that as I am all alone here, having lost my wife

three years back, I am rather anxious to have a lady in the family to look after the social side in this house, and in the circumstances my nephew and his wife will be of particular use to me, and I have also told him that he might mention it to the Maharaja of Gwalior as my personal request if he thinks it necessary. I shall be personally very grateful if you would put in a word in this matter so that Gyan Nath may come over here. He is a very decent boy and well equipped and qualified for the job.

I hope you are well.

With my respects,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. N. Katju', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Hon'ble
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Deputy Prime Minister of India,
NEW DELHI.

23

New Delhi.
The 5th October, 1947.

Thank you for your letter No. 555 GO,
dated the 1st October, 1947. I was much
interested to read its contents particularly
those relating to the Eastern States. I
would be grateful if you would keep me
in touch with developments on that side
from time to time.

Yours sincerely,

His Excellency
Dr. Kailash Nath Katju,
Governor of Orissa,
Government House,
Puri.

g.

(7)

24

New Delhi.
The 6th October, 1947.

My dear Menon,

I am enclosing herewith an extract of a letter which H.M. has received from the Governor of Orissa. H.M. is writing to the Governor that he would be glad if he would continue to keep H.M. in touch with the developments on these lines.

Yours sincerely,

(V. Shankar).

Rao Bahadur V.P. Menon CMI, CIE,
Secretary, Ministry of States,
New Delhi.

G.



25

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
PURI.

The 1st October, 1947.

My dear Sardar Sahib,

I hope you have continued to enjoy good health in spite of the terrific pressure of public business during the last few weeks. Sitting here in a quiet corner of India my thoughts constantly go back to the U.P. and Delhi and the Punjab. I hope normal conditions will soon be restored.

To avoid repetition I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter which I am sending today to Jawaharlalji. The portion about the Eastern States may interest you particularly.

With my respects to you and namaskars to Mani Ben,

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

K. B. K. Patil

(7)

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Deputy Prime Minister of India,
NEW DELHI.

PERSONAL.

26
Government House,
Puri.
The 1st October, 1947.

My dear Jawaharlal),

I have intentionally postponed writing to you as I did not want to bother you with a letter of mine whilst you were so fully occupied with the developments in the Punjab. I am so glad to learn from the newspapers that the situation in Delhi has almost become normal and conditions are also slowly improving in the Eastern Punjab. I was brought up and educated in Lahore (1900-08) and the tragic story of what has happened there and elsewhere in the Punjab has caused me personally very deep grief.

2. During the last six weeks I have devoted most of my time to see about for myself and to study the various provincial problems. Cuttack is just like Allahabad in one respect, being situated inside two rivers, the Mahanadi and one of its branches called the Katjuiri. While in Allahabad you can always motor out by road bridges across the two rivers as well as by the Grand Trunk Road into the Doaba, here in Cuttack the rivers are not bridged for road transport and the motor road inside the delta leads you straight into the sea. The result is that during the rainy season Cuttack becomes almost an island. I have visited and inspected many of the local institutions, official and non-official alike, both in Cuttack and Puri, and have been very favourably impressed with what I have seen. The demand for education in Orissa is intense. Boys and girls are very keen and seem to be of an artistic temperament. It is such a pleasure to spend an hour or so in an educational institution.

3. On the 27th of August last the Orissa Legislative Assembly met principally to consider the experts' report on the Hirakud Dam Project. As this was the first meeting of the Assembly after the transfer of power, I went and addressed the members on the opening day. I had spoken about this earlier to Mahatab, and on various points in my address I endeavoured to voice the

(7)

opinions of the Ministry and its policy. This address had a good reception both in the press and on the platform, and I received many letters expressing approval of what I had said.

4. The feeling in Orissa on the question of the amalgamation of the Oriya speaking parts on the borders of the province is exceptionally strong. This question was examined in some detail by the O'Donnell Boundary Commission in 1932-33. The Commission was manned by officials, though it had non-officials also, including Saahohidananda Sinha and the Maharaja of Parlakimedi to advise it. The Oriyas then pleaded for a much larger area for their province, but the Committee, mostly on the basis of figures of the 1931 census, rejected the claim. The same plea is now being renewed with great vigour. I think it would be desirable from every point of view to bring into this province as many Oriya-speaking people as may be practicable. Absence of any inclination on the part of other Provincial Governments to develop Oriya art and literature is not surprising. This problem in South Orissa in the border districts of Ganjam and Koraput has assumed serious proportions, because the population is rather a mixture there. While there is a large Oriya population in the border areas of Visagapatnam district, there is a fairly vocal, though very small, minority of Andhras included in the Orissa districts of Ganjam and Koraput, and these people are shouting themselves hoarse over the inclusion of these two districts in whole or in part back in the Andhra Desh. In public meetings recently very violent language was used and threats were held out, and Mahtab had to issue a public statement denouncing all such intemperate speeches likely to disturb public tranquility. I think this is a matter which requires speedy and authoritative examination to avoid further complications.

5. The Eastern States, with which you know Orissa is so interlocked, present another difficult problem. I have no means of knowing exactly what is happening, though the other day Lt. Colonel Bedi, the Liaison Officer stationed at Sambalpur, came and saw both Mahtab and me. He was rather complaining that the Nalors did not pay much heed to his advice because they knew he had no political status, and could exercise no authority or even moral pressure over

them. In fact, the Rulers have been asked by their Federation to ignore Rudi altogether. The Federation constitution is a curious set-up. The executive authority vests in a board of 7 Rulers with a President, and there are so-called Ministers to aid and advise the Board. This is a misuse of language, because the Ministers are appointed by, and are responsible to, the Board and are in no way responsible to the Legislature. This Constitution is a complete eye-wash and transfers no real power to the people. The Prime Minister of the Federation, Krishnarao, came and saw me and Mahtab the other day, and we discussed matters in general. He told me that he was quite alive to the very vague position in regard to the establishment of constitutional government in the States, and they propose to appoint a committee at once to draw up a model constitution for each State. What has been done in furtherance of this proposal I do not know. Meanwhile, so far as I can gather from confidential reports and the writings in the press, the situation is getting quite explosive. Everyday the Orissa press carries stories of repressions in one or other of these petty States. The latest is that the Federation has employed a police force of 700 recruited from Pakistani Muslims and others and so on. The Praja Mandals in some States are carrying on vigorous propaganda and we get the familiar accounts of lathi charges, arrests and detentions without trial. I think these States should be definitely told that they cannot be permitted to swagger about with notions of independent kingship and sovereignty. Many of them are not even as big as some of the subdivisions of the United Provinces, and prior to the 15th of August were dancing humbly to the tune of every Political Agent. Orissa can boast of a strong press, four dailies and several weeklies, very wide awake, able and fully representative of all shades of political opinion in the country. This press is unanimous in its attitude towards the Eastern States and strongly advocates the establishment of genuine responsible government therein. Having regard to the slender resources of the province and of these States acting in isolation, it is imperative in the interest of further development that there should be the closest cooperation between them. This is

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a point which I stressed in my address in the Legislature and I catalogued a long list of colleges and institutions which are urgently required in the interests of national development. I imagine the States Department, in spite of its other pre-occupations, is fully alive to the gravity of the position in this part of India, and effective measures shall soon be adopted to set this right and to bring these Eastern States "potentates" to a just appreciation of their true position. I emphasise this because if there is any serious development in any State and any untoward incident takes place, I have not a shadow of doubt that public opinion in the Province will side wholly with the States' people, and even the Provincial Government may be forced - not that they will be the less willing themselves - to take active sides in the controversy. You may be aware of the very strong resolution adopted by the Utkal Provincial Congress Committee on this matter.]

6. There was a very full discussion on the Hirakud Dam Project in the Legislative Assembly and, in spite of the fact that the Ministry made it an absolutely free non-party issue and no whip was issued, the Assembly unanimously approved of the project and decided to go ahead with it. It is now up to the Central Government to take the next step. The local agitation against it in Sambalpur has seemingly died out. Before the meeting of the Assembly I received telegrams and representations asking for the adjournment of the Assembly, and some people came to Cuttack also, but nothing happened. All the Sambalpur members strongly supported the project, and, according to our information, the Government undertaking to give generous compensation to those who would be dispossessed of their lands, and, later, to give them land equivalent in size for cultivation, has gone a great way in satisfying public opinion. I am sure that in spite of your terrific pre-occupations with the immense refugees' problems and all the demands it implies on your resources, the Central Government would take immediate steps to push on with this project. The more I study the potentialities of Orissa, the more I come to the conclusion that without adequate supply of power not much advance can be made. I shall not pursue this topic further at present and may have to return to it in my

future letters to you.

7. The amity of communal relations in this province is very gratifying. I was invited on the 19th of August by the local Muslims to attend a tea party in connection with their Id festival, and was very cordially received by all the leading Muslims at Cuttack. They all praised the attitude of the Ministry, but the only demand that was made was for the preservation of their "national" language, namely Urdu. This demand was made in a speech delivered in faultless English. I replied in Urdu, which, I was told, not more than 20 per cent of the Muslims present understood. Muslim members of the Legislature have come to see me, and Latifur Rahman, MIA, has published a very out-spoken statement on the present communal situation.

8. We are expecting our contingent of 2,500 refugees for whom arrangements have been made in three of the districts.

I shall write again in the near future.

(Yours sincerely),

Sd/- K. N. Katju.

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru,
Prime Minister of India,
NEW DELHI.



D. O. No.

5353/H.P.M.

3) CUTTACK.

The 19th SEPT 1947

Revered Sardarji,

I have been thinking of writing to you for some time back but I was hesitating whether or not I should write to you when you are very busy in connection with a very serious problem which has arisen in Delhi. With regard to the Hindu-Muslim question, as it appears to me from the statements and speeches of the leaders of the Muslim League, the problem will be a continuous one and I will not be surprised if a definite attempt is made from the side of Pakistan to continue the border incidents for some time to come. So far as our province is concerned, I have tried my utmost to maintain law and order here so that there may be some developments here and the exact poverty is removed at least to a certain extent. I thank God that so far our province has been free from any such troubles what-so-ever. But I cannot help keeping you informed of certain developments which may bring about trouble.

(1) The first is the Telugu-Oriya question in the south of this province. As you know, the Telugus are agitating for a separate province. We have nothing to say against that. But some of their leaders think that a certain portion in Orissa ought to go back to the future Telugu province. As you know, the boundary of this province was demarcated by a Commission and at that time the Rajah of Bobbili, a great Telugu Leader, was then the Chief Minister of Madras. The Telugus and the Oriyas fought their case before the Commission at that time and the whole question was discussed by the then Government of India and also the Secretary of State. Ordinarily the decision arrived at that time ought to have been considered as final. But assuming that it is to be reopened, it should be done in a constitutional manner. So far as I know the Constituent Assembly has not yet decided to make new provinces. If and when the Constituent Assembly decides upon creating an Andhra Province, then and then alone a Boundary Commission will be appointed.

If

If that Boundary Commission takes up the question of the southern boundary of Orissa then they can easily know from records the actual position regarding the population of each race. Instead of waiting for such an action, some of the Telugu leaders are delivering some inflammatory speeches in the border areas and are hob-nobbing the aboriginal population in the south in such a way in order to influence them in their favour that breach of peace is apprehended. I do not like to take any risk in these matters. So, I have advised the local officers to take all preventive steps so that no speech or act may end in breach of peace anywhere. Will it not be convenient to you if you make it clear publicly that the Constituent Assembly has not yet decided whether the new provinces will be made, and if they will be made, when they will be made and if and when they are made, a Boundary Commission will be appointed: the formation of the new provinces and the demarcation of boundaries are not live issues today.

(11) The second question is the situation in the States. As it appears to me, the situation in almost all the States is growing tense everyday. In some of the States there is absolute lawlessness. I am told this morning that a subdivision inhabited mostly by aboriginal people has declared itself independent of the Mayurbhanj State. As the matters stand today, the province has nothing to do with the States. The Communist Party of this province have virtually shifted their headquarters to the States and in some States they have captured the popular organisations. If they carry on their activity in the neighbouring States, it will be very difficult for us to control them. If there is lawlessness in the States in a large scale, it will have its effect on this province also. It is the question of law and order of a vast magnitude. I had some discussion with Menon when I was there at Delhi. He promised to come here by the end of September. I do not know whether he can come or not in view of the situation which has arisen in Delhi, but the States question is an important question which should be given attention to as early as possible.

We



PAGE - THREE

36

CUTTACK,

19

We have offered to give shelter to 2,500 refugees here in this province. I am sorry we could not give shelter to more because of the want of accommodation. From this distance I picture myself how worried you are today. Shankarrao came here a few days back. So far as the future of the congress is concerned, I entirely agree with him on all points. I hope he has discussed the matter with you.

Yours sincerely,

Heurich

Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Deputy Prime Minister, Dominion of India,
Minister for Home, Publicity and Broadcasting
and States, NEW DELHI.



D. C. No. 5/ DELH-JULY/ HPM

16-D, Peroseshash Road
New Delhi,
Central

The 15th July 1947

Reverend Sardarji,

I shall not be fair to myself and to yourself as my leader, if I do not let you know my feeling about certain matters relating to the administration of the country. I share my feelings with Mr. Kher, Premier of Bombay and a few other Premiers and they too feel like me that the Provincial Ministers are not informed even when vital decisions such as the recommendation of a man for the office of the Governor General of the country and even the appointment of a Governor for our own province are taken. Our experience is that we are taken into confidence by the Governor and told something about the policies adopted in the Centre of which they are regularly kept informed by the Governor-General from week to week. Although the policies at the Centre are determined by our leaders in Government, we are not even informed of them in time - leave aside consultation on important matters. Very often we come to know of important decisions from the newspapers. Sometimes, the Governors expect us to know more than what they receive in weekly letters from the Governor-General. I know on important questions the opinions of Governors are sought by the Governor-General. While even today the Governor-General maintains close contact with the Provincial Governors and consults them in all important matters, we as Ministers feel it very much that we are not only not consulted but we are not even informed of important decisions. This policy of not informing even the heads of provinces may have the effect of creating fissiparous tendencies and a sense of irresponsibility towards the Centre in the provinces. I know that things are moving so rapidly and the leaders at the Centre are so engrossed in various problems that in spite of their efforts they cannot keep close touch with the Provincial Ministers. But with all honesty I may submit that keeping touch with all limbs of the whole administration should receive the first priority in the agenda of work before the Central Government. Now, the 15th of August is not far off and we hear all sorts of rumours about the changes which are coming but we come to know of these changes only from newspapers. This is obviously an enviable position for the Provincial Ministers.

May I suggest that the system of regular weekly letters from the Head of the Central Government to the Provincial Government as is followed between the Governor-General and the Governor should be adopted also by the Vice-President of the Interim Government and the future Prime Minister of the Centre and the Provincial Ministries.

Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
Member for Home & Broadcasting,
Government of India, NEW DELHI:

*Yours sincerely**Amullee*



D.O.No.766-G.O.

341
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
CUTTACK

The 28th July, 1947.

Dear Sardar Patel

This just a line to inform you that I am reaching Delhi on the afternoon of the 3rd August at the invitation of Field Marshal Auchinleck in order to attend one or two meetings of the Armed Forces Reconstitution Committee. I hope to leave either on the 7th or on the 8th. I would very much like to meet you during my stay in Delhi, and the earlier I can do so, the better. Would any time on the 3rd suit you? Would 5 P.M. or even earlier that day be all right? I also would like to see Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru and am writing to him separately. I would be grateful if you would drop me a line C/o. Field Marshal Auchinleck, with whom, ~~as I have said above,~~ I shall be staying.

*Yours sincerely
C. B. Bhowmik*

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Home Member, Govt. of India,
NEW DELHI.



D.O.No.771-G.C.

35
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
CUTTACK

The 28th July, 1947.

BY AIR MAIL.

0 *Dear Sardar Patel,*

I wrote to you early this morning saying that I would be reaching Delhi on the 3rd afternoon. I have now had a telephonic message to say that I am required at Delhi on the 1st, if I can manage this. I am accordingly reaching Delhi on the 1st afternoon and will contact you thereafter.

*Yours sincerely
Chandrabh
Tandon*

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Member, Home Department,
Government of India,
NEW DELHI.

File

36

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

Penmal Island CUTTACK.

21/7/47

Dear Saviour Patel

I have just had a letter from the Governor of Bihar to say that the provisional view of Bihar Ministry is that no British officer of the day of staff's services should be returned in service after 15th August 1947, even though he may express a willingness to stay on after transfer of power. The view of Orissa Ministry is that and case of a British officer who wishes to stay on after 15th August should be considered on merits. There are certain British officers whom for one reason or another it is not desirable to return, which reason

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-31

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
CUTTACK.

Bihar to let us have his or
their good British officers
whom they don't wish to
return.

I feel that these days we
have to lay aside sentiment
& first principles & do the
best we can not to lose
good men, even if they
belong to the British officers.

This letter is meant only
for you. I would not have
written it if the Bihar
issue did not affect
us in Orissa. Wherever
we see the Government of Bihar
will have a hard job.
& we ought not to make
it harder for him by
doing men unnecessarily.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely
Charlotte
Smith.



D.O.No.758-G.O.

38
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
CUTTACK

The 26th July, 1947.

My dear Sardar Patel,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 23rd July. It is very good of you to say that you may be able to help us in getting suitable I.C.S. officers from Bengal and I.S.E. officers from the Punjab. My Council of Ministers and I will consider the matter formally when we get specific proposals from the Home Department and the Department of Works, Mines and Power.

*Yours sincerely
Chandrabh Sekh*

0-
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Home Member,
Government of India,
NEW DELHI.

301
1, Aurangzeb Road,
New Delhi.
The 11th July, 1947.

Thank you for your letters of the 4th and 5th July, 1947. Bhalja has now started sending me detailed information about the way things are going on in the Committee. On the whole I find that our people are quite alert in the sub-committees and we have an able team.

2. The question of the Army Headquarters being in Delhi is unfortunately not an easy one. The accommodation difficulty is really overwhelming. We shall see, however, whether anything is possible by re-arrangement of the departmental accommodation when the partition details are settled.

Yours sincerely,

His Excellency Sir C.M. Trivedi,
CSI, CIE, OBE, ICS,
Governor of Orissa,
Government House,
Puri.

G.

(X)

Secret & Personal.



D.O.No.RAF/T/7

40
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
PURI.

The 5th July, 1947.

Dear Sardar Patel,

This is in continuation of my D.O. No.RAF/T/4 of the 4th July. I have now received today a copy of the proceedings of the meeting of the Partition Council held on Monday the 30th June. There is one point to which I would like to invite your attention, namely the question whether the Army Headquarters for the Union of India should be set up at Meerut rather than at Delhi. The Army Sub-Committee has been asked to examine and report to the Partition Council on the pros and cons. You will remember that Sardar Baldev Singh was strongly of the view that the Army Headquarters for the Union of India should be set up at Delhi. The main difficulty was one of accommodation. On thinking over the matter again, I myself am of the same view as Sardar Baldev Singh, provided we can get over the difficulty of accommodation. It is true that Meerut is only 40 miles from Delhi, and that communications between the two places are very good. Even then, for effective and continuous personal contacts between the Army Headquarters of the Union of India and the Government of the Dominion of India, and also between the Army Headquarters and the Supreme Commander's organisation - and the necessity for such continuous personal contacts is indeed obvious - location at Delhi is ^{undoubtedly} preferable. Time is an important factor, and there would be waste of at least two hours for several officers in movements between Meerut and Delhi. I am inflicting this letter on you, because I feel it is my duty to place before you what I think.

Yours sincerely,

Ch. L. L.

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Member of the Interim Government,
Home, Information & Broadcasting,
NEW DELHI.



AIR MAIL

D.O. No. RAF/T/4.

SECRET AND PERSONAL.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
PURI.

The 4th July 1947.

Dear Sardar Patel,

I arrived here on the afternoon of the 1st. Before I left Delhi, I had a long talk with Bhalja about his work and position on the Armed Forces Reconstitution Committee. I think you should ask him to keep you in full touch with what is happening in the Committee. It would be a good thing also if you could arrange to be kept in equally full touch with what is happening in the Sub-committees. The detailed arrangements require watching. You must also ensure that the options given to the members of the armed forces are freely exercised. This is very important.

2. I myself think that the decisions we have reached about the principles for the reconstitution of the armed forces are satisfactory. I think it will be a good thing to develop social contacts with Auchinleck. I know him very well, and he is very anxious to help. It should be our aim to take full advantage of his services. As for myself, I am always at the disposal of our leaders. I know what a terrible burden they are carrying at present, and it is the duty of humble folk like myself to endeavour to give whatever assistance one can. Please therefore regard myself entirely at your disposal. If on any urgent matter, a personal consultation with me is necessary, and it is not desirable to send for me, you can always ask Bhalja to fly to Calcutta, and then come by train to Cuttack, to discuss any matters with me, but I do hope this will be unnecessary. Auchinleck anticipates that I may have to come to New Delhi about the middle of this month, but he is not certain about it.

With my kind regards to yourself and Mani Behn Patel,

Yours sincerely,

in family

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Member of the Interim Government,
Home, Information and Broadcasting,
New Delhi.

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D.O. No.685 G.O.

The Viceroy's House,
New Delhi.
29th June, 1947.

42
GOVERNOR'S CAMP
ORISSA.

Dear Sardar Patel,

You will remember that after Dr. Rajendra Prasad, you and I discussed the Viceroy's paper on the partition of the Armed Forces, I said that I had a few general matters to mention to you, but unfortunately you had another engagement. Will it be possible for us to meet for a few minutes at The Viceroy's House after the meeting of the Partition Council tomorrow?

I am seeing Sardar Baldev Singh at 3 p.m. this afternoon, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at 4 p.m., and Mr. Jinnah at 6.30 p.m. Please do not bother to reply to this letter, but if there are any more points in connection with the Viceroy's paper referred to above, I can, if you so desire, meet you at your house after I have seen Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Everything being well, I hope to be able to leave Delhi on Tuesday morning, and have made arrangements accordingly.

*Yours sincerely
Jinnah*

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Member of the Interim Government,
Home and Information & Broadcasting Departments,
NEW DELHI.



D.O. No.665 G.O.

43

GOVERNMENT HOUSE.
PURI.
The 22nd June, 1947.

My dear Mr. Patel,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 19th June on the question of an appeal to the Secretary of State's services.

2. I wrote to you about this matter, because Mahtab told me that at the meeting of the Premiers it was decided to issue a joint appeal. From what you say, he must be under a misapprehension. I quite agree with you that a letter to individual officers is sufficient. I have not yet seen the letter to which you refer, and will not have an opportunity of seeing it here as I am leaving for Delhi tomorrow by air in connection with the matter which you have referred to at the end of your letter. I should be reaching Delhi at about 1.30 p.m. tomorrow (Monday the 23rd) and will be staying at The Viceroy's House. I should be very glad if a copy of the letter to individual officers is sent to me at that address for my information. So far as we are concerned we may have to make some small changes in the letter in view of the fact that the cadres of Secretary of State's services in Bihar and Orissa are joint.

3. I shall of course meet you when I am in Delhi. More when we meet.

Yours sincerely,

am Trivedi

File



The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Member for Home in the Interim Government,
NEW DELHI.

44
BY EXPRESS TELEGRAM

STATE

HONOURABLE SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL
HOME MEMBER
NEWDELHI

YOUR WIRE DATED SEVENTEENTH STOP
REPLY ALREADY SENT BY AIRMAIL ON SIXTEENTH

MAHTAB

Not to be telegraphed: From the Hon'ble Sri Hare-
krishna Mahtab, Prime
Minister, Orissa, Cuttack.

No. 3313/HP M. Date - 18.6.47.

Sd K.C. Bose,
PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Copy by post in confirmation.

2/11

KCBm
18.6.47

D. S. L.

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INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

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HONBLE SARDAR VALLABHAI PATEL HON MEMBER NEWDELHI

YOUR WIRE DATED SEVENTEENTH STOP REPLY ALREADY SENT BY AIRMAIL ON SIXTEENTH
- MAHATAB

(K)

46

New Delhi, 19.6.47

Thank you for your D.O. letter
No.3252/HPM dated the 16th June 1947.

2. The question of the mining lease by the Bastar State in favour of the Nizam of Hyderabad has not yet been finally settled. You can assure the memorialists that we shall do our best to see that the interests of the State and its people are sufficiently safeguarded in this matter. I am already in correspondence with Ravishanker Shukla about it and hope that soon the matter would be put right.

The Honourable
Mr. Harekrushna Mahtab,
Prime Minister,
Cuttack.

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M.

HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB
PRIME MINISTER
HOME, FINANCE AND PLANNING
ORISSA

CUTTACK

217

The 16th June, 1947

D.O.no. 3252/HHH.

Revered Sardarji,

I send herewith a memorial which has been addressed to you and sent to me to forward it to you with my recommendations. A memorial of this nature has already been sent to the Crown Representative. This memorial is sent to you with the hope that you will please exert your influence in the Political Department to see that the interests of the people of Bastar do not suffer in any way.

Yours sincerely,

Harekrushna Mahtab

Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Member for Home, Government of India,
New Delhi.

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48

The Home Member,
The Interim Government of India,
New Delhi.

May it please the Honourable Member,

We, the undersigned residents of the Bastar State, beg to present this memorial and pray that necessary action may be taken.

We learn with panic the reports appearing in the Press that the Nizam of Hyderabad intends to annex the State of Bastar to his dominions and that he is making necessary preparations.

We learn that the Political Department is granting mining leases in Bastar State to the Nizam and the announcement of the Nizam's Government of the construction of a railway line 175 miles long to the east of Ramagundam or Pedapalli on the Kazipet-Bellarshah line which must necessarily lead to the site of the contemplated mines in the middle of the State, cannot but create apprehension in the minds of the people about the truth of the Press reports.

The haste with which the Political Department intends to create mining leases in favour of the Nizam when we hear that the Ruler of the State who would complete his 18 year in a few days, would be invested with ruling powers before the close of the year, justifies the apprehensions of the people that the contemplated lease is purely political and against the interests of the people and the Ruler. The Administration of the State is now carried on by four outsiders appointed by the Political Department and there is no popular voice.

The people also learn that the Nizam wants to flood the State with Muslim Military personnel ostensibly to work the contemplated mines but really to act as the van guard of the invading force when time comes. We also learn that the Nizam invited Muslim Leaguers from the neighbouring Province of Orissa to Hyderabad to chalk out a line of action and he is going to finance the building of mosques every 10 miles on the road from Salur to Jeypore in the neighbouring district of Koraput in Orissa are pointers in the direction which leave no room for doubt in the minds of men. We also learn that the Nizam is trying to get his nominees appointed to key points in Bastar State so as to influence the policy of the administration to fit in with his plans.

Hence the memorialists earnestly pray that necessary action may be taken to protect the people of the State by taking such steps to prevent any possible rising against the people or the State and by putting in abeyance the contemplated lease of mines.

Your humble memorialists,

Jagdalpur (Bastar State). }
Dated the 4th June 1947. }

K. V. Navasimhadao

[Signature]

Madan Tiwari

[Signature]

R. K. Mahalingam

[Signature]

[Signature]

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50

NEW DELHI, 19.6.47.

Thank you for your D.O. letter No.3251/HPM dated the 15th June 1947 regarding European officers of the Subordinate Services.

2. We have taken the stand throughout, that persons domiciled in India have no claims for special consideration on account of the transfer of power. To grant any right of proportionate pension to European officers for the Subordinate services would be a definitely discriminatory act against which we have been fighting throughout, and would also be contrary to the principle mentioned above. On either of these grounds, therefore, there is no case for any further concession and I hope you will drop the matter. We must follow a uniform policy in all the Provinces in such matters.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Vallabhbhai Patel.

The Honourable
Mr. Harekrushna Mahtab,
Prime Minister,
Cuttack.

M.

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HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB

PRIME MINISTER
HOME, FINANCE AND PLANNING
ORISSA

BY AIR MAIL

CUTTACK

The 15th June 1947

D.O.No. 3251 / HPM

Revered Sardarji,

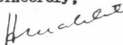
Please refer to your letter dated the 31st May 1947 regarding the European officers of the Subordinate services.

The fact is that some time in the second week of May the Governor and myself discussed amongst ourselves the representation of the Sergeants, Sergeants Major and officiating Deputy Superintendents of Police of European domicile with regard to their future. In our province there are altogether 16 officers in these categories of whom 4 are temporary. They felt apprehensive about their future and waited on a deputation to Inspector-General of Police to forward their representation to Government. It was represented that many of these officers would like to stay provided they felt reasonably certain about their future position. The Governor and myself thought that it would perhaps be better to retain as many of these officers in service as possible in the interests of the training and discipline in the Police Force. We can replace them only by drawing upon the Army, the prospect of which did not appear us to be bright. Accordingly, we amongst ourselves agreed that we should concede some of their demands and keep them contented here. This was however a discussion between the Governor and myself and it related only to this province. It had no bearing on the general policy which will be followed by the Central Government. There is no doubt about the fact that we will follow the policy which will be decided upon by the Central Government. Even so far as our Provincial Government is concerned we have not decided upon any policy and as a matter of fact the representation which has been made to Government by the Inspector-General of Police

(4)

on behalf of the Sergeants and Sergeants Major is under examination in the Secretariat. Government as such have not come to any conclusion regarding the representation. The discussion between the Governor and myself cannot be taken as the decision of Government. As a matter of fact, before I received your letter, I have myself started re-examination of the whole representation. I would like to know from you the policy which we should follow in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Member for Home, Government of India,
New Delhi.

NEW DELHI, 19. 6. 47.

52

Thank you for your demi-official letter No.641 G.O. dated the 16th June 1947.

2. The sense of the meeting of the Premiers which I held last month was definitely against the issue of a joint appeal. They merely wanted a statement to be sent to individual officers containing the terms on which their services would be retained and asking for their individual wishes in this respect. A letter to individual officers on these lines has issued yesterday through the Provincial Governments concerned. We have made it as comprehensive as possible and I feel that no further action beyond the issue of this letter would be necessary.

3. I do not see why individual Indian officers should expect or ask for an appeal from me to render to the country what they owe to it. As regards European officers, I would deprecate making any discrimination between them and Indian officers so far as we are concerned. If they wish to continue, they are welcome to do so. For that they should need no persuasion or coaxing from us. If they do not wish to remain, the terms of the Viceroy's announcement are there. We cannot add to or detract from it. I think you may have to come here for a short period to help us in the matter of division of the Army and the consequent assets and liabilities.

His Excellency

Sir C. M. Trivedi,
CSI, CIE, OBE, ICS,
Governor Orissa,
Government House, PURI.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-Vallabhbhai Patel.

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M.



AIR MAIL.

D.O. No. 641 G.O.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
PURI.

The 16th June 1947.

My dear Mr. Patel,

I understand that at a meeting held by you with Premiers of certain Provinces early last month at New Delhi, it was decided that a joint appeal should be issued by you and them to officers of the Secretary of State's Services, to continue their services in future. I further understand that the idea was to issue this appeal after the plan for the transfer of power was known. At that time we were working on the assumption that the control of the Secretary of State over the Services would terminate by June 1948. It now appears that the control will go by August 1947. The issue of an appeal is therefore an urgent matter. I feel that such an appeal is needed, and that besides requesting the officers to continue in service (this of course does not mean that we should not get rid of unwanted officers), it should include the assurances contained in the Viceroy's announcement on the subject of the grant of compensation.

I have written this letter because several of my officers, some of them British, are making enquiries about this matter, and the sooner we assure them, the better it is for the administration.

Yours sincerely,

Ch. Tripathi

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Member for Home in the Interim Government,
New Delhi.

54
EXPRESS TELEGRAM

STATE

**HONOURABLE HAREKRUSHNA MANATAP
PREMIER**

CUTTACK

**MY LETTER THIRTYFIRST MAY 1947 REGARDING RIGHT TO
PROPORTIONATE PENSION TO EUROPEAN OFFICERS OF SUBORDINATE
SERVICES STOP WOULD BE GLAD OF IMMEDIATE REPLY**

VALLABHBHAI

Not to be telegraphed:

Signature:

**Address: Hon. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Home Member of Cabinet, Govt of India,
New Delhi, 17.6.1947.**

(7)

Dear Sardarji,

The 55

Sambalpur
2.6.46

A life and death struggle is going on in Sambalpur in Western Orissa

An appeal has been made to Mahatma Gandhi and Sri H.K. Mahatab to save the people of the District.

Copies of the said appeal is being sent to you for your kind information and necessary action

C.P. Mishra

Copy of the appeal to Mahatma Gandhi

56 The Sambalpur
23 June 1947.

Dear Bapuji,

The people of Sambalpur have ^{appealed} ~~appealed~~ to you several times and some of our representatives have met you and appealed to you to save us and help us in the fulfilment of our demands of the abandonment of the Hirakud Dam Project and the separation of Sambalpur from Orissa. But unfortunately you are now busy with greater ^{Sri P. Panda President P.C.C. Sambalpur} issues that face the country. Last time ~~myself~~ with Sri Brajanchan Panda, Ex. M.L.A. had gone to Patna and Delhi to meet you and represent to you the grievances of the district but ~~they~~ could not even meet you and returned back empty handed. In despair from 21st. May our people have started to offer Satyagraha and people in thousands are prepared to submit to any hardship and cruelties of the type mentioned in the attached copy of my letter to Sri Mahatabji.

Permit me to ask you in it the Rauraj coming for which thousands of us fought, suffered, will you sit there silently and look on, when in your name, and in the good name of the Congress, people in power to-day mis-use that power, terrorise the people and to support their actions paint their victims as reactionaries traitors and what not, only because our voice can not reach you.

I appeal to you to save the district from death and ruin and give a few ~~month~~ moments of your valuable time for a helpless people.

Yours affectionately,

Chandrasoodhram

Copy of the appeal to Sri H.K. Mahatab
Cuttack

The Sambalpur,
2nd June 1947 .

57

Dear Mahatabji ,

I have read with regret the extract of the report of your press conference with your replies on the Anti-Hirakud Satyagraha movement and the move for the separation of Sambalpur from Orissa. It has pained me to see that you have not cared to give any importance to the strong feeling of resentment prevailing in the district and the united demands for the abandonment of the Hirakud Dam Project and separation . Instead the local police and the authorities perhaps with your silent approval are terrorising throughout the district, amazingly peaceful Satyagrahis and citizens .

A point arises now whether it is desirable to push through any scheme at the point of bayonet against the declared will of the people at the present circumstance in India . The agitation against the Hirakud Dam is going on in the district since more than a year. From thousands of meetings throughout the district demands have been made for its abandonment. The Government with its huge publicity staff have not been able to convince any body of the supposed benefits of the proposed scheme. The preparation of the construction of the dam is going on in hot haste. The Survey parties and the staff of the Central Water Works Department and the local police are terrorising the simple villagers, cutting down indiscriminately trees, mango groves, destroying the crops in the fields and a large number of reports have reached us where they have committed inhuman atrocities on women and they are all behaving as if an army of occupation. Your Government is issuing only threats in the name of law and order and not looking in to the real grievances of the people. It is undesirable on the part of a popular Government to waive aside their demands so contemptuously and paint the movement simply the work of a few interested persons. The people in despair gave an ultimatum to the Government on the 21st April

and accordingly Satyagraha has been started since 21st May. This resolution was moved by no less a person than Dr. J. Pujari the most respected and beloved leader of the district who had to come out from the retirement and who is worshiped in Sambalpur more than Gandhiji himself for his selflessness, for his high ideals and God fearing nature. Your Government has sent him to prison and has shamelessly demanded a security for GOOD BEHAVIOUR for 6 months and thus your Government has heaped an insult on the entire people of the district which a Sambalpuri - worth the name is not prepared to submit easily.

What do we see during the Satyagraha movement? Amazingly peaceful people have been mercilessly beaten with lathi even after they fall senseless, Girl volunteers have been beaten, dragged with one leg and thrown away in unconsciousness, Red Cross workers and volunteers have been assaulted and injured severely when giving aid to the injured persons. Even your police officers did not refrain from assaulting and injuring Srimati Rukmini Debi, wife of Sri Bodhram Dube, Ex- Congress Minister, Member Constituent Assembly and Provincial Assembly.. Armed police is terrorising throughout the town and rural areas, assaulting, mercilessly beating innocent persons and arresting them under section 144 Cr.P.C. has been served on a large number of leaders and workers throughout the district. 107 I.P.C. has been served on a large number of ~~innocent~~ responsible persons and student workers. In spite of all these the people are keeping absolutely non-violent. It is strongly rumored that the local authorities are trying to ferment communal trouble and are instigating a few persons of a particular community to create such situations so that they may be able to enforce Curfew order and punitive Police.

I ask are these the methods by which a popular Government should push through any post war scheme however beneficial it may supposed to be . Will it not be wise on the part of the popular Government to declare that it will abandon the scheme if the people do not want it . For the purpose let these be a plebiscite or a re-election in all the constituencies of the district. Why encourage lawlessness by such methods in the present State in India.

You might be of the opinion that throughout India lathi charges, firing and such other things are going on and nobody will take any notice of the happenings here and you as a congress Premier, will paint these people as reactionaries etc and your Government named entirely by people only of the coastal areas of Orissa whom the people of the district have no faith will terrorism throughout the district in a revangeful manner. Is it for this that the Great Congress Organisation fought for more than half-a-century ? Is it the Ramraj of Gandhiji coming?

The people of the district have demanded from thousands of meetings' for the separation of Sambalpur from Orissa. They have no connection with the rest of Orissa culturally, linguistically and in all other spheres. The treatment of the Orissa Government has further widened the Gulf. They want to have a separate entity with no interference from the Orissa Government. I am amazed at your replies in the press conference . You have brought from no where like a magician the Maharaja of Patna. You have not cared to gauge the feelings of the people of the district instead you think that if you publicise the Patna Maharaja bogey. every body will condemn this move of separation during the year 1947 how is it possible for any body in the district to be willing according to you for the inclusion of their district into that State. This suggestion is ridiculous and insulting to the

to the people of Sambalpur. Why can not your Government declare that it will have full sympathy with the hopes and demands of the people and give every facility in its power for the fulfilment of their dreams. If you still pretend that these are the work of a few interested persons then for both these issues which have become life and death problems to the people of the district a plebiscite or a general election may be held. If the majority of the people support these demands in election, then your Government has no right to create ugly situations and lawlessness and terrorise the people .

I entreat you I pray that you will consider these points in a Gandhian spirit and save the people from further troubles. For the settlement of these issues your Government should release all the leaders and Satyagrahis now in prison and withdraw the gagging orders and thereby create a quit atmosphere .

I demand it .

Yours sincerely ,

Chandrabhaya
Mishra

59.

New Delhi.
The 31st May, 1947.

My dear Mahtab,

I am told that the Government of Orissa has agreed to the grant to European Officers of the subordinate services of the right to proportionate pension in the event of premature retirement or discharge or dismissal for reasons not involving moral turpitude. I am inclined to doubt this because I am sure that such an important decision you would not have taken without a reference to us. I should like to have confirmation that this is so.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon'ble Mr.
Harekrishna Mahtab,
Premier of Orissa,
Cuttack.

(4)

PERSONAL & SECRET

HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB
PRIME MINISTER
HOME, FINANCE AND PLANNING
ORISSA

60
CUTTACK

The 22nd May, 1947

D.O.no. 2648/H.P.M.

Revered Sardarji,

Your letter dated the 15th May 1947:

I am glad you have issued the directives quite in time. I am glad to inform you that here in this province we have been consistently following the policy which is now contained in your letter.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature

File

Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Member for Home, Government of India,
New Delhi.

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61

NEW DELHI, 29. 5. 1947.

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My dear Sir Chandulal,

Thank you for your demi-official letter No. 544 G.O. dated the 24th May 1947 and for the enclosures.

2. Both you and your Prime Minister have made the right approach to the problem of maintenance of law and order in your province. The instructions which you have issued are quite comprehensive and should meet the object in view.

3. I am glad that there is so much complete accord between you and the Ministry and that the Province is deriving full benefit from it.

With kind regards,

Yours truly,
Vallabhbhai

His Excellency
Sir Chandulal M. Trivedi,
C.S.I., C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S.,
Governor of Orissa,
Government House, PUR I.

(+)

Secret & Personal.



D.O.No.544 G.O.

62
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
PURI.

The 24th May, 1947.

My dear Mr. Patel,

I write to say that I very much appreciated the opportunity of a talk with you when I was in Delhi last. I told you then that the Ministry and I in Orissa were working together as one team, and that relations between the Services, including the Police and the Ministry, were all that could be desired. We have so far been able to maintain law and order in Orissa, and, except the firing at Bhadrak in July last which resulted in 4 Muslims being killed and 8 others wounded, we have had no incident of any kind. It is, however, necessary for all of us to be eternally vigilant and you may be interested to know that, after discussion with my Ministry, Mahtab and I have issued a secret and personal letter on the importance of maintenance of law and order to the Revenue Commissioner, the Inspector-General of Police, the Inspector-General of Prisons, all Collectors and all Superintendents of Police. In case you would care to glance through the letter, I enclose a copy for your personal information. The picture in paragraph 2 of the letter may be a little over-drawn, but it seems necessary to emphasise the dangers in front of us, though it may be that some of them may not materialise. Our communists are already giving us a good deal of trouble, and the foolish people of Sambalpur have already started satyagraha against the Hirakud Dam Project. We are watching the communist situation, and it may be necessary for us to arm ourselves with special powers. The Sambalpur agitation has not assumed serious proportions, and the present indications are that we will be able to deal with it effectively without special powers. In this connection, it may interest you to know that last year we created a Military Police consisting of two striking companies and one headquarters company, and that very recently we have strengthened the force by the addition of one more striking company.

2. This letter is only for your personal information.

Yours sincerely,
un hind

The Hon'ble Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel,
Home Member of the Interim Government,
NEW DELHI.



D.O. No. 488(15) G.O.

SECRET & PERSONAL

63

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
PURI.

The 14th May, 1947.

My dear

My colleagues in the Council of Ministers and I have been pondering over some of the problems arising out of the decision of His Majesty's Government to effect the transference of power to responsible Indian hands by a date not later than June 1948, and the Hon'ble the Prime Minister and I have decided to address you personally on one supremely important problem, viz. the maintenance of law and order in Orissa. The settlement of all-India political and constitutional issues is not for us, but so far as we are concerned, you will readily realise the fundamental necessity of ensuring by all means at our disposal that not only during the period from now to June 1948, but also after that date, our province continues to enjoy peace, stability and good Government. While there have been troubles of varying degrees of magnitude in other parts of India, our province has fortunately remained peaceful. We have been able so far to maintain law and order, and to safeguard life and property, for which credit is due, among others, to you all.

2. At the same time, even in Orissa dangers and difficulties lie ahead of us. We have in our midst persons and parties whose activities tend to disturb public feeling and to promote lawlessness and violence which may ultimately lead to a situation bordering on chaos. You have already been instructed how to deal with these activities - please see circular demi-official letters Nos. 133(6)C of the 18th January and 733(6)C of the 11th April 1947 from the Chief Secretary. In the Sambalpur district there have been threats of direct action in connection with the anti-Hirakud Dam agitation. Agrarian unrest is also being fostered by certain persons and parties who do not hesitate to exploit labour, whether industrial, agricultural or domestic. There may also occur (if this has not already occurred) infiltration of outsiders in the province with the sole object of creating

(4)

creating trouble between Hindus and Muslims or between different parts of the province or different sections of the Hindu community. There is also evidence of attempts, fortunately not on any considerable scale, to sabotage the loyalty of Government servants, particularly the police, by spreading discontent among them. Troubles in neighbouring provinces may also have adverse repercussions here. Further, there is a real danger that corrupt or easy-going or gullible elements within Orissa itself may play into the hands of those, whether belonging to Orissa or hailing from outside Orissa, who are out to make trouble for their own selfish or sectional ends.

3. All my colleagues and I are determined to ensure peace and security of life and property in Orissa so that the people of the province may go about their lawful avocations without fear or anxiety. It follows that from now onwards you should regard it as your primary duty to maintain law and order.

It is the wish of the Hon'ble the Prime Minister and myself and also of our other colleagues that all of you and the staffs under you should maintain the utmost vigilance within your jurisdiction, and that your intelligence system should be maintained at the highest pitch of efficiency and reliability so as to enable you to know at once if any kind of trouble or mischief is brewing in any part of your jurisdiction or preparations for this purpose are being made. Further, we desire that you should not hesitate to take preventive action, e.g. under section 107 Cr.P.C. where such action is necessary or advisable, and also to proceed otherwise at law against those whose activities come within the mischief of the law. It is most important that the police investigations should be conducted with the utmost promptitude, and that the same degree of promptitude observed in trials before courts. In fact, we cannot over-emphasise the necessity of promptness in all matters affecting law and order. You should also do everything that is possible to impress on all elements of the population in your jurisdiction the supreme necessity of not doing anything

which would disturb peace and tranquility in Orissa. The task which we have laid on you will call for alertness, initiative and energy of the highest order on your part, and you may rest assured of the full support of Government in all measures that you in your considered judgment may find it necessary to take. Government will not hesitate to arm you with more powers by legislation should this be found necessary.

4. It is important that you should convey personally to all the officers under you the gist of these instructions so that they may act in accordance with them. You must also spare no pains to cultivate close personal relations with everyone in your department and keep them steadfast. This applies with particular force to the Police Department, and the superior officers must make it their constant endeavour to be in close touch with the men under them with the object of maintaining in tact their discipline, steadfastness and contentment. We know that District Magistrates maintain the closest personal touch with their Superintendents of Police. This is of course most essential, but we suggest that you should arrange for periodical personal meetings between yourself, the Superintendent of Police and Civil and Police Subdivisional Officers.

5. You should acknowledge this letter personally to B. Mukherji, Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, and keep it in your personal custody. If there is any change in incumbency, you should hand over this letter to your successor.

Yours sincerely,

Ch. J. J. J.

H. C. C.

P.S.

This letter has been sent to the Revenue Commissioner, the I.C. of Police, the I.C. of Prisons, all Collectors and Superintendents of Police.

28. 5. 47

I have received your letter of the 22nd instant. I had already got a report about the Hyderabad State having got a mining lease for iron-ore from the Bastar State and I was making inquiries about it. I had no idea of the Nizam's move demanding from the Government of India the annexation of that State and some portion of Koraput district of Orissa, etc.

2. I have heard all sorts of reports about Nizam's preparations of aggressive designs in the event of British quitting India in June 1948.

3. You must have heard about Mirza Ismail's tour in Berar with the same object in view, as suggestions have openly been made for the retrocession of that province. If these reports are true, there is enough cause for us to be on our guard. In Orissa, the muslim population is infinitely small and even if the Nizam is able to get the sympathy of all the muslim population of that province, it would hardly be of much help to him in gaining his objective; but it is true that it is a signal which shows which way the wind blows and you have got to be careful.

4. I know that the Political Department in their recent Conference of all the Residents held in Delhi decided to wind up the Agencies and to transfer some of the existing functions to the States. I am taking up the matter with the Political Department.

5. I am glad you have sent me the report. Any such information of value from your Special Branch

SECRET

67

HAREKRISHNA MAHTAB
PRIME MINISTER
HOME, FINANCE AND PLANNING
ORISSA

CUTTACK

The 22nd May, 1947

D.O.no. 2653/H.PM

Revered Sardarji,

I herewith send a copy of the report from our Special Branch dated the 1st May. Apart from this report, we have been receiving reports from the Special Branch for the last six months that two mosques are being built in the district of Koraput at a cost of several thousands of rupees although the number of Muslims in the district is very small and it is less than 1%. These costly mosques aroused our suspicion long ago. Now this report gives some clue to the mystery of construction of these mosques. We are taking precautionary steps as far as we can. Our Governor also has sent a copy of this report to the Viceroy. I may suggest that this matter should be discussed between the Viceroy and yourself.

Some of the small Rulers of our States, I am told, are negotiating with Hyderabad. In the mean time, steps are being taken to wind up the Political

4

Department; but so far as the Orissa States are concerned, unless there is some suitable agreement between the States and the Province with regard to administration of some common subjects, winding up of the Political Department will certainly mean confusion both in the Province and in the States. The step that should be taken before winding up the Political Department must be to ask the States to come to some agreement with the Province. You may please take up this matter with the Viceroy.

Yours sincerely,

H. M. S. A. B. T.

Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Member for Home, Government of India,
New Delhi.

68.

Copy of an Orissa Special Branch Officer's report dated the 1st May, 1947.

Subject:- Provincial League President's visit to Hyderabad-left Cuttack on 20.4.47, and returned on 26.4.47.

It is learnt that Mr. Fazle Haq, President, Provincial Muslim League Orissa was invited by Sir Mirza Ismail, Dewan, Hyderabad State in the capacity of the Provincial League President of Orissa for a discussion with regard to the boundary line of Orissa bordering the Nizam's State.

It is understood that H.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad has taken a move demanding from the Government of India the annexation of the Bastar State and some portion of Koraput district of Orissa bordering the Bastar State and the Jeypore Estate of the same district. If the demand is not conceded the Nizam's Government is trying to take these portions by hook or crook after the British quit India in June 1948. Just to have a thorough idea about the Koraput district and its inhabitants this interview was said to have been arranged. In the mean time the Nizam's Government wants to create public opinion in favour of the State through the Muslims of Orissa and if possible through some interested persons. The Nizam's Government is prepared to spend a lump-sum amount for this purpose. Sir Mirza Ismail on behalf of H.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad has assured the President of the Provincial Muslim League to look to the interests of the Muslims of Orissa and to help them in all possible ways in near future if they are in any way harrassed by the Provincial Government after the British leave India.

Mr. Haq apprised him of the present administration of the Province and the position of the Muslims in the administration and the Muslim League movement in order to enlist his sympathy.

It is also learnt that the Nizam's Government wants the co-operation of the Orissa States and wants that propaganda should be made through the people and press of Orissa in his favour. Mr. Haq it is learnt will call the Working Committee of the Muslim League during this month and keep the members informed about his talks with Sir Mirza Ismail.

The reason attributed to the visit of Ranjit Mahanti s/o Sri Madhusudan Mahanti of the Radical Democratic Party is obviously for the purpose of acquainting the Dewan of Hyderabad State with the Orissa State affairs. He was taken by Mr. Haq in order to help him.

The information is based on the facts obtained in course of talks with some prominent Leaguers of Cuttack.



D.O. No. 418 G.O.

69
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
PURI.

The 25th April 1947.

Dear Mr. Patel,

I have not had any correspondence with you so far, but this letter is prompted by your speech to the probationers of the All-India Administrative Services, which I read with very great interest. I myself had occasion to address our newly recruited Deputy and Sub-Deputy Collectors, and if you have time, you might like to glance through my speech, of which I enclose a copy for your information.

As you may know, the Ministers and I here are working as a team. This province is the poorest and the most backward in India. Fortunately, it has no communal problem, no serious labour unrest, and the left-wing movements are not very strong. This gives us all an opportunity to do something to develop the province or rather to bring it somewhere near the level of other provinces. I should say that this province is at least a quarter of a century behind. Mahtab will tell you all that we are doing, and ⁷our difficulties which are largely internal. Particularly, there is lack of trained man-power. The people of the province themselves are very narrow in their outlook (this is not their own fault), and really there is not a great deal of enlightened opinion to back the efforts of Government. All of us here are however trying to do our best.

Yours sincerely,
Chand

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Home Member in the Interim Government,
New Delhi.

70

Speech made by His Excellency the Governor on 3.4.47., while inaugurating the training class of the new Deputy and Sub-Deputy Collectors.

My Hon'ble colleagues and other gentlemen :

It gives me much pleasure to inaugurate the training class of our new deputy and sub-deputy collectors, and I am happy that I am being supported in this task by all my hon'ble colleagues. The training, which will last for 10 to 11 months, will be fairly comprehensive. It will be both theoretical and practical, and will embrace revenue, tenancy and criminal law and also, what is very important talks by competent persons on the development of the province in its several aspects. You will also be able during the training to know something of survey and settlement and the working of the Collectorate. You will go in batches to different parts of the province to learn something of their different revenue and tenancy laws, and I hope a good many of you, if not all, will be given opportunities of spending some time in Koraput and the Ganjam Agency, which, as you know, are Partially Excluded Areas and present problems of their own.

This training is merely an introduction to your new duties. Its object is to enable you to enter upon these duties with some knowledge of what they are and to know where to look for guidance and whom to turn for assistance. Administration is an art, if not a science. It is also becoming progressively complex, and the general administrator of today has not only to dispense justice promptly and impartially and maintain law and order but has also along with officers of other departments a great part to play in implementing the post-war development plans of Government. The idea of a training class is a comparative innovation in this province, and this is only a second training class - the first having been held last year at Angul. In preparing the syllabus of this year's training class, we have endeavoured to make improvements in the light of experience, and, although I do not claim that the training given to you will be as perfect and complete as I would have liked it to be, I have confidence that it will help you in some measure to begin your career as public servants better than would otherwise have been the case.

All Governments must depend on their permanent staffs

to

to carry out their policies and programmes, and Governments will be judged not according to their plans but by the measure of success they achieve in executing them. You are therefore the instrument of Government and in fact its mainstay. From today you will be public servants, and let me give you my conception of what a good public servant should be. First and foremost, he is a public servant, that is to say, he dedicates his life to the service of the public. He serves the public as a whole and not parties, communities, sects or any particular section of the public. I hope that all of you will keep this ideal always in front of you whether you are sitting in court as a judge or otherwise working at your desk or holding an enquiry or deciding a dispute in the field. Secondly, I need hardly tell you that integrity is of course essential for a public servant. This is indeed obvious. A dishonest public servant does not serve the public but serves himself and that too in an utterly immoral way. Thirdly, do not get stale. The moment you become stale, your utility as an officer is finished. Be keen on your work. Learn it thoroughly and do not spare pains in making a good job even of difficult work. This postulates a mind always alert and bent on study. Be thorough, and whether it is a case of writing a judgment or an order or preparing a report, base it on facts and do not generalise. It is my common experience that Governments suffer far too much from lack of factual information. It is to you, young officers, that we shall during your career look for factual information on several aspects of administration. Make it therefore a point of learning everything you can about the people in your jurisdiction and about the subjects you have to deal with. Cultivate a wide liberal outlook and keep abreast of modern developments. Fourthly, please remember that all administration is team work. Administration is like a chain the strength of which lies in its weakest link. Please regard therefore your brother officers, whether in your own department or in other departments, as your colleagues in a common cause and lay aside personal feelings and petty jealousies. Fifthly, there is a universal complaint that our administrative machinery moves very slowly. I am afraid this is too true. Be therefore seized of the absolute importance of being prompt in all your work and cultivate the habit of being systematic and methodical. Sixthly, learn to exercise responsibility and do not be afraid of taking it. Have

Have confidence in yourself and you will inspire confidence in others. Finally, given peace and stability, development of the province will henceforth form one of the main activities of Government. Make it your task to be thoroughly acquainted with the development plans in your jurisdiction. Do your best in cooperation with your colleagues to execute them both not only in the letter but in the spirit. Study the needs of your charge and bring them to the notice of Government. Development cannot proceed without the cooperation of the public. In fact many of the schemes will fail unless the public adopt them, and make it therefore your business to win the cooperation of the public. To recapitulate in one sentence, a good public servant is a servant of the public and in the discharge of his duties rises above personal, communal or sectional considerations; is keen and alert; is hardworking; never spares himself and does his best as far as in him lies to make the people in his jurisdiction happy. If through oversight or lack of comprehension, I have omitted any of the essential attributes of a good public servant, I am sure my Hon'ble colleague, the Prime Minister, who has been good enough to agree to address the conference will fill the gap, but I do hope none of you will think that I visualise a good public servant merely as a cold, cheerless, superefficient bureaucrat, with little or no human feelings. A good public servant is a thoroughly human being, cheerful, tolerant, not afraid of difficulties, full of humour and capable of understanding and leading the men under him and inspiring them with his enthusiasm.

I have so far dealt with your new responsibilities. The career on which you are entering is a honourable one. It is not a career in which you will be rich, but there are prospects in front of everyone of you. I hope some of you will rise to the highest positions in the administration. It will be our duty as a Government to give you fair treatment and remove any reasonable grievances which you may feel, and to see that you rise in the official ladder according to your merits. My colleagues in the Council of Ministers are fully alive to the vital importance of keeping the Services above and outside party politics, and I have every confidence that you will never have occasion to make a legitimate complaint that you have not been treated fairly or otherwise than on your own merit.

I wish you, young officers, a successful career in the new profession you are embarking upon today. The eyes of Orissa, your own homeland, will be on you. You are the sons of the soil, and we have great hopes in you. May you worthily discharge the responsibilities which will in increasing measure fall on you as you grow in service.

14
Home Department,
New Delhi, 12-4-47.

Dear Mr. Kanungo,

Please refer to your letter
of the 9th April addressed to the
Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Unfortunately he is going out
on tour from the 15th to the 18th
April and much regrets therefore that
he will not have the opportunity of
seeing you.

Yours sincerely,

(V. Shanker)
Private Secretary.

To
N. Kanungo Esq.,
Minister, Law, Development
and Labour, Orissa,
c/o Director of Conference,
Government of India,
Labour Department, New Delhi. (f)

N. KANUNGO

MINISTER, LAW, DEVELOPMENT
COMMERCE AND LABOUR, OMMAA

75
CUTTACK

The 9th April 1947.

Respected Sir,

I will be in Delhi from 15th morning to 17th noon in connection with a conference of the Labour Department and shall be obliged if I could see you for a few minutes. As the conference will be sitting from 11 A.M. to 4 or 5 P.M., any time outside the conference hours would be convenient to me.

A line in reply to the following address, giving the time and place where to meet, will oblige.

Yours sincerely,

N. Kanungo

(Nityanand Kanungo).

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
Member in charge Home.
Government of India.
New Delhi.

Address:-

C/O. Director of Conference.
Government of India.
Labour Department.
New Delhi.

(f)

HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB
PRIME MINISTER
HOME, FINANCE AND PLANNING
ORISSA

76
CUTTACK

25 MAR 1947

D.O No. 1655/H.P.M.

Revised Sanction,

Your letter dated the 21st March 1947. There was a bye-election in one of the constituencies in the district of Sambalpur. In that constituency we lost the seat even in the general election, because the local Zamindar had considerable influence in the locality and our organisation also is very weak there. After the death of the Zamindar the bye-election took place. In this time too the uncle of the Zamindar stood for election. He applied to the Congress for nomination, but the District Congress Committee did not support him. We knew that we would lose in the election because we had no suitable candidate. But anyway, the Provincial Congress Committee decided to set up a candidate in order to take the chance of doing some congress propaganda work there. We lost that seat true, but the candidate, who has come out successful, is not an anti-Congress man. He has applied to the Congress to be accepted as a member of the Congress Assembly Party and he used the name of the Congress also in his election propaganda. Our agency is very weak there. We are trying to rectify our defects.

As you know, in the annual elections the Congress Socialist Party got hold of the Prevl. Congress Committee owing to our indifference at

that

CONFIDENTIAL

CUTTACK 77

HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB
PRIME MINISTER
HOME, FINANCE AND PLANNING
ORISSA

The 14th March, 1947

D.O.no. 1364/H.P.m

Revered Sardarji,

I hope you will not please mind to bring to your notice a gross injustice which is reported to have been done to one of the officers in Medical line (Col. A.N.Chopra, who is now in Orissa). I send you herewith a press-cutting and a note with regard to that officer. It is whispered here that the case of this efficient officer is going to be overlooked at the Centre. I shall be much obliged if you kindly exert your influence in doing justice to the case.

Yours sincerely,

Hon'ble Sardar Ballabhbhai Patel,
Member for Home,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Harekrushna

HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB
PRIME MINISTER
HOME, FINANCE AND PLANNING
ORISSA

CUTTACK

25 MAR 1947

D.O No. 1655/H.P.M.

Revised Sunday,

Your letter dated the 21st March 1947. There was a bye-election in one of the constituencies in the district of Sambalpur. In that constituency we lost the seat even in the general election, because the local Zamindar had considerable influence in the locality and our organisation also is very weak there. After the death of the Zamindar the bye-election took place. In this time too the uncle of the Zamindar stood for election. He applied to the Congress for nomination, but the District Congress Committee did not support him. We knew that we would lose in the election because we had no suitable candidate. But anyway, the Provincial Congress Committee decided to set up a candidate in order to take the chance of doing some congress propaganda work there. We lost that seat true, but the candidate, who has come out successful, is not an anti-Congress man. He has applied to the Congress to be accepted as a member of the Congress Assembly Party and he used the name of the Congress also in his election propaganda. Our agency is very weak there. We are trying to rectify our defects.

As you know, in the annual elections the Congress Socialist Party got hold of the Provl. Congress Committee owing to our indifference at

that

that time. We have now reorganised the Provincial Congress Committee. We are taking all steps to strengthen the Congress organisation throughout the province.

Hope you are well. *Yours truly*

H. M. Patel

Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
1 Aurangzeb Road,
NEW DELHI.

CONFIDENTIAL

CUTTACK 7/1

HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB
PRIME MINISTER
HOME, FINANCE AND PLANNING
ORISSA

The 14th March, 1947

D.O.no. 1364/H.P.m

Revered Sardarji,

I hope you will not please mind to bring to your notice a gross injustice which is reported to have been done to one of the officers in Medical line (Col. A.N. Chopra, who is now in Orissa). I send you herewith a press-cutting and a note with regard to that officer. It is whispered here that the case of this efficient officer is going to be overlooked at the Centre. I shall be much obliged if you kindly exert your influence in doing justice to the case.

Yours sincerely,

Hon'ble Sardar Ballabhbhai Patel,
Member for Home,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Handwritten signature

*14th March
Col. Chopra
Note
2/13*

NEW SCANDAL IN DELHI 78 APPOINTMENTS

INDIANS IGNORED TO PROVIDE JOB FOR EUROPEAN

(By Our Staff Correspondent)

DELHI, Friday.—How the plan of making Delhi city and province a model area for public health is to be worked is becoming clear from the manner in which the proposed service is to be manned.

The new Director of Public Health Services is to be Lt.-Col. (Temporary Brigadier) D. M. Fraser. Colonel A. N. Chopra, on whose report the new post has been created, laid down that the Director must have public health qualifications and experience. Col. Fraser has no public health qualification or experience, and presumably he has not been chosen by the Public Health Commissioner to the Government of India.

General Hance, Director-General, Indian Medical Service, wanted to provide him with a good billet. Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Public Health, only too readily agreed with the view that an Englishman can fill any post. That officer whom Sir Jogendra Singh had himself appointed to survey the public health problem and whose report the Government has made the basis of its new scheme was, of course, not good enough being an Indian.

It was thought that at least the new Director's deputy would be an officer with public health experience and an Indian. Here again, General Hance, supported by Sir Jogendra Singh, thought that it was for Colonel Fraser to select his deputy. And since Colonel Fraser does not get on well with Indians he thought of appointing one Major Greening. Meanwhile, criticism of Colonel Fraser's own appointment had been voiced in the Press, and it was felt that Fraser's man was "too green" in the matter of public health as he had no qualification.

Well, there the matter stands. Colonel Fraser will probably be given another chance to select an Englishman, this time with public health qualifications. This racket of public health offices being awarded to favourites has to run its course.

The Colonel's Record

Lt.-Col. Fraser was flown to England on leave preparatory to assuming his 'important' charge in Delhi, which he will do in about a week. It may be thought that Colonel Fraser's medical qualification is outstanding and would make up for the absence of public health experience. His record shows him to be a M.B.C.H.B., which is the minimum qualification for admission to the I.M.S. He has a diploma in radiology.

General Hance will not be in India to answer for the result of his experiment. He will be leaving this country in March to succeed General Bradfield as Medical Adviser to the Secretary of State in London. Why should he care for public opinion? Why, for the matter of that, should Sir Jogendra Singh care for public opinion? He, too, is booked to leave the Executive Council by April. But Delhi has its public health at stake.

High Rank And Salary

The new Chief Commissioner, Mr Christie, is very keen on improving Delhi's health. As a new broom he wishes to sweep well. But will he be a party to manning of the public service by men who have not adequate qualification? And is it fair that these appointments should be made over the head of the well-meaning Public Health Commissioner, Col. Bogman, and that Indians should be excluded from them?

Anyway Lt.-Col. Fraser is a fixture. He will take up his appointment even though the Government of India has yet to give financial sanction to the grandiose schemes he has to implement. He has been given the rank of a pucca colonel (a privilege denied to his predecessors) and he will draw the salary of an Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals. Delhi may be a tiny province, not even equal to a Punjab tehsil, but her dignity as a capital requires that Englishmen, and not Indians, should man her public health services and that they should be paid as highly as corresponding officers in a full-fledged province. Delhi's post-war future is at stake.

NEW SCANDAL IN DELHI 78 APPOINTMENTS

INDIANS IGNORED TO PROVIDE JOB FOR EUROPEAN

(By Our Staff Correspondent)

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1. In November, 44, Government of India requested the Orissa Government to spare the services of Colonel Chopra for three months to prepare a detailed plan for health development of Delhi. The Orissa Government called for Colonel Chopra's reactions to the proposal.
2. He accepted the proposal.
3. The Orissa Government agreed to spare his services to the Government of India.
4. Government of India appointed him as the officer on special duty, Medical Relief and Public Health, Delhi.
5. He joined the post on 14th February, 45 and submitted his Delhi Health Development Plan on 5th May, 45.
6. He proceeded on leave for two months on medical grounds from 5th May, 45 and rejoined his duties as the Director of Health and Inspector-General of Prisons 7th July, 45.
7. On his way back to Orissa, he understood that the post of Director of Health Services, Delhi, was to be created shortly by the Government of India and he also heard a rumour that he refused the post.
8. He brought the matter to the notice of the Director-General, Indian Medical Service in his letter dated the 15th July, 45.

Colonel Chopra was anxious to operate the Delhi Plan he prepared and in fact he placed himself in that position while preparing the plan in order to make it practicable. He was not in a position to accept the post immediately as he was badly in need of rest and he should have gladly joined it afterwards when the post was to be actually filled up. He did not put in personal candidature for the post as he felt that the person who prepares the plan should also be the person to operate it, if the plan should be practicable and the results real and good.
9. The Director-General informed in his letter no.D.2005/45, dated the 23rd July, 45, that the post of Director of Health Services, Delhi, was created and selection made, and he certainly understood that Colonel Chopra was not a candidate for the post.
10. Director-General assured in the said letter that his name has been registered for consideration, should a suitable administrative post fall vacant in the Punjab or elsewhere.

Retention of Services



UNOFFICIAL AND PRIVATE.

60
CUTTACK,

22nd December 1946.

Most Respected Sardarji,

It is not without trepidation that I intrude upon your most valuable time, but the points I herein raise are so important from my stand point that I excuse myself. They are:

1. Enquiry and punishment of Zamindary and Government officials who have committed most shameful and heinous crimes during the August movement in the years 1942-43:
2. Regarding the employment of the I.N.A. personnel.

It appears to have been generally laid down by the Congress High Command that no action will be taken in a general fashion, but specific complaints put forth about the extraordinary misconduct and high-handedness of officials or others will be enquired into and suitably dealt with. The rank and file of workers in Orissa feel very strongly that some action should be taken regarding extreme cases of cruelty and wickedness on the part of those who were responsible for oppressing people during the 1942 movement.

For example:

(a) In the Koraput district, a district mostly affected during the movement and from which I come, certain Zamindary and Police officials looted villagers of all their property including large quantities of gold, silverware, utensils and even food-stuffs; in the last resort womenfolk were stripped naked and were pulled together by knotting the hair on the head. No description will be more shameful.

(b) Certain Assistant Sub-inspector who has now been promoted as Sub Inspector of Police and a constable went from village to village with a number of members of the Criminal Tribe, did all sorts of mischief in villages, molested women, looted houses with the help of Doms, members of the Criminal Tribe, who have many previous convictions to their credit and not satisfied with this, they even answered calls of nature inside the very houses which were the scene of their ravages.

(c) A number of about 50 political prisoners lost their lives inside the Koraput Jail due to the bad and harsh treatment and callous and unsympathetic behaviour of the Jail officials -- a fact unparalleled in the annals of Jail administration regarding the political prisoners in India. Perhaps the Koraput Jail incident may hold a candle to the Belsen Concentration Camp in



ADDITION
a miniature form:

Incidents can be multiplied in this way in respect of not only Koraput district but in respect of other districts also. The excesses in Koraput district surpass all the others. All these atrocities appeared in public through the columns of news papers, and the Government of the day are not unaware of these, because members of the present Congress Government were inhabitants of such villages of districts, like myself. As the President of the Koraput District Congress Committee for 10 years and as the President of the Utkal Provincial Congress Committee for 5 years, all these atrocities were described by my humble self in my reports to the All India Congress Committee, to the Press and others. If today I am a member of the Government of the day being a Minister, I do not see why I should call for further reports or further allegations on the atrocities and not sit straitway to deal with such offenders myself. By referring to 'I', I mean the Congress Government in this Province. Strictly speaking I am the Minister in charge of P.W.D. From your exalted position you will kindly realise that it does not fall within the purview of the activities of a P.W.D. Minister to deal with such cases. However, I make no grievance against any of my colleagues in the Ministry, but I feel that the Congress High Command including your great self may be pleased to bring pressure upon the Congress Ministers, the rank and file of the Congress Assembly party and Congress men and to give them the right lead in these matters. In short no action has been taken against anybody up to now.

Having said all this about the atrocities I now come to the second point I referred to in the beginning of this letter, that is, about the I.N.A. personnel. The I.N.A. personnel in Orissa have been crying hoarse for employment, etc., in the services. Their grievance is a genuine grievance and has to be faced in all seriousness, perhaps in a more serious fashion, because their place is second to none in their sacrifices for the country. I do not know what other Provinces have done in this regard, but we in this Province have done precious little for them. Something in the nature of a whip should I think emanate from your good-self.

As these questions are bothering me for a long time I thought it worthwhile to get some satisfaction by bringing them to your notice.

Yours sincerely,

R.K. Bhowmik

To
Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Member in charge of Home, including
information and Broad-casting,
Government of India, NEW DELHI.

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HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB
PRIME MINISTER
CUTTACK

CONSISTENT
TITLES
UNDESIRABLE

WITH OUR
ATTENDANCE

POLICY
AT

REGARDING
INVESTITURE

VALLABHBHAI PATEL

(7)

Sd. V. Shankar,

Private Secretary to the
Hon'ble the Home Member.
11.11.46.

BY AIR-MAIL

CUTTACK 81

19th November, ... 1946.

HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB
PRIME MINISTER
HOME, FINANCE AND PLANNING
ORISSA

D.O.No. 2680/H.P.M.

Revered Sardarji,

I was thinking of writing to you in details about the conditions here in this province. But as I think, you will be now busy in connection with the Congress Session, I am post-poning writing to you in detail for about a week.

I am very sorry, I am not able to attend the Congress Session because I do not like to leave the province in the present circumstances. Sri Biswanath Das has gone to Meerut and you will know everything from him.

Yours sincerely,

Harekrushna Mahtab

Hon'ble Sardar Ballabhbhai Patel,
Member Interim Government,
1, Aurangzeb Road,
New Delhi.

ku

*Cumstans with no policy
regarding titles all the same
as usual.*



399

83

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

Class
Mark

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Recd. from

By

Sent at

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To

By



Handed in at (Office of Origin).

Date.

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000 D CUTTACK I.O STE PTY 55 IMMDE SARDAR BALLABH BHAI

PATEL 1 AURANGZEB ROAD NEW DELHI

PLEASE ADVISE IF WE SHOULD ATTEND GOVERNORS INVESTITURE
CEREMONEY HELD TO CONFER TITLES ON OFFICERS STOP METHINKS
OUR ATTENDANCE PERHAPS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN DISCIPLINE
AMONGST OFFICERS STOP OLD INSTRUCTIONS WAS HOWEVER
NONATTENDANCE STOP PLEASE WIRE IF OLD INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD
BE FOLLOWED EVEN DESPITE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES =

MAHTAB PRIME MINISTER



नई देहली

३. ८. ४४

४५

पू: सरदार,

● पू: बागपु की आसामुसार मैं

येह कागजात आप के पढ़ने के

लिये भेजती हूँ. पढ़ कर आप.

मुझे सब वापिस कर दीजियेगा.

जो खत आज श्री महाराज को भेजा
है उसमें सभलपुर के बारे में

● शिक्षावत थी कि ३०० गांव को

हटाना पड़ेगा और हजार एकड़

जमीन हूबो दी जायेगी वगैरा. योजना

में नुकसान ज्यादा होगा, फायदा

काम .

आपने बोक उठा लिया है
आप अपनी सेहत की रक्षा जरूर
करना और थोड़ा से शीघ्र हमें
स्वराज देना .

आप की अमृत-कौर का प्रणाम

१४ दमिष्टका महलाज,

लुण्ठारा १३ अगस्त का जल मुझे मिला
यहां के कामों में इंसो होने के कारण उत्तर बलही नहीं जोर
सका

मेरे पास कोई कागज आया है. जिसे मैं लुण्ठार
पात्रन लेजता हूँ. देखो ने कि उस किस्म के दरलजत
नहीं. क्यों नहीं—सो मैं नहीं जानता. अगर यह जल
जनावही हो और उस में मैं हकीकत हो है. सही नहीं
तो मुझे कुछ देने जैसा नहीं रहेला. लेकिन मेरा तो
विश्वास है कि ओडिस्सा की गरीबी का सजल यह
नहीं कि यहां बड़ा बड़ा मिलें नहीं. और अगर बार
मिलों के लिये कोई लाख ४ हजार लड़ के लेने का
बाव है तो ओडिस्सा सरकार के जाही हो लूटना है. गा.
यही जल मैंने लार्ड प्रकाशम को वा खिजा है. क्यों कि
उस के लई से मेरे पास उन के *London Commission*
आय है. और यहां से बल हो गये. लंडा मिलों से
उडिया देहात लाजो नहीं होने वाली और सारवा हुंहुसा
देहातों में ही जना है. अब मुंकि हुंहुमत प्रग के हाथों
में आ गई है तो प्रग के प्रतिनिधियों का कर्तव्य है कि
देहातों पर अपना पुरा दयाण है और हर धन में

राजा गुंजन को और हरेक देहात में सब-देहाती धाँहे लखगो
 से मले. यह मेरी धरणा और मेरा स्वप्न है और मैं ने
~~सब~~ माना रखा है कि तुम्हारे लगे होंगे.

माना कि ओडिससा की ~~अवस्था~~ के प्रति निन्दित को
 जैसा राय नहीं लगे तुम्हें प्रधानपद को छोड़ देना चाहिए
 और जो ओडिससा में लड़ी मिल जाना चाहते हैं
 उन के हाथ में ~~आस~~ जागहोरा राय.

समलालपुर की योजना के लाने में मेरे पास
 जो साया है. सो लेना है. सोना में पुरी समझ.
 लगे लगे चरन उपर पर लिखु गा.

(सह) लापु के आवाज है.

मन्थो. ११-२३-६५.

४७५२९ (कोडिना)

११-२४-६-४३

पूज्य आपुण

आपका १४.६.४३ का पत्र मिला. मु. पि. सुं कि मेरे हस्ताक्षर. पढ़ना आपके लिखे म. रा. ए. मु. वि. मु. वि. होना, इस लिखे मैने उससे अंग्रेजी में राख करवा दिया था. आपका जल. पा. कर आर. हो जो हिन्दी राख के लिखे आई है रहा हूँ. इससे ~~मेरे~~ ~~जो~~ ~~कर~~ ~~हूँ~~ जल. मे. मै आपने हस्ताक्षर का दूसरा करने की प्रशिक्षण करा करता हूँ. यह जल मे. आपने जो छोटा से लिखवा रहा हूँ. मैने यह जल का नही सोचा था कि मैं मिल करता हूँ. यह शिक्षण होगा. इस काम के लिये न. लो. मेरे पास है और न इस काम में मेरा मोहना आना लिखा है. २५ साल से (मार्कट योग आनंदोलन से लेकर आर. ल. क.) आपकी आधुनिकता में और आप के दिमाग में पत्र चलने के लिए काज भाग जोड़ने की जवाबदारी कैसे हो सकती है?

लेकिन सुं कि मैं जल को नि. वि. वि. मंत्री का काम करता हूँ. इस लिये मेरे आपने लिखा और जल में प्रशिक्षण मत के साथ संबंध हो रहा

हो है. साथ ही आपसे माँझ होगा कि जहाँ सबका, प्राणों में भाव जोलने के लिये प्रयत्न कर रहा है. अगर कोई प्राण उठकर करेगा तो उस प्राण में ही, वाली भाव दूसरे प्राण में हो जायेगी. और जहाँ सबका ही निश्चय है. और हीलत में अगर हम मना कर दे लेते हैं, तो पड़ोसी प्राण जंगल, मंदिर, जिला, और आ. आ. में ये भावे हो जायेगी. जिसे उठाया जा न सके कल ही समाप्त नहीं करेगा. और जहाँ की और मैंने मधुन का ध्यान किया था. अगर सारा प्राणों में कुछ अर्थ नहीं बचते तो केवल कुछ प्राणों में कुछ भाव नहीं बचता.

मुझसे है. यही धर्म संकर मेरे सामने उपस्थित है.

उठाया में जाठ दूर करने के लिये महा नहीं जाँद की योजना आप की सोच में मैंने लेना है. और यह ही संग्रह में हाँ-हाँ किया गया है. मुझे भाव करेगा. और उस पन का जवाब भी रहती है. होना.

- और लीन मार से उत्कल में मंसिल का काफ कर रहा है. और लीन मार के अंदर से तो मैंने ही है, गुना और किया है. इससे मैं अनुभव

करने लगा हूँ कि मुझे जैसे सपना के आदमी
 कि लिये अपना प्रकाश से ही दलालों में काम
 करना मुश्किल है। अतः इस के बारे में मैंने सोचा
 कि सपना के अंग्रेजों के सपना पति के पास जा-लिया है।
 आशा है कि इस मार के लोग मुझे बिहाई भी
 करे।

आपने मर में मेरे लिये आप, शब्द का
 इस्तेमाल किया है, तो कि आपने पहले सली
 नहीं किया है। यह मुझे बहुत दुःख दिया है। क्यों

कि कोई पिता अगर पुत्र के प्रति आप शब्द का
 इस्तेमाल करे तो उस में लिये एक अनिच्छा के लिये
 पर सोचा मैंने मरगा।

आपका आशीर्वाद
 (अरी) हर हृदय पर

माँ महेपाल,

आप का अंग्रेजी का जग मिला, जो जग में ले
ले जवादा था उस में यह ली मित्रता था कि आप
मुझे उसके मिल निजालने वाले है, खास और हो गो
मेरी राय मांगने का जरूरत कहा रहती है? कैसे लो
हो मैं चाँदा पसंद करनेवाला था कि मुँकी गरीब
है लो मोल आदिये, धरन का अर्थ लो यह होगा
कि हर गरीब मुँक मुँक था हर देहात में गरीबी
हूँ करने के लिये मिले आदिये, और यह कामका
विचार है लो मुझे कुछ जग करने का अधिकार नहीं

आपका

(स. ग. मो. क. जाँदा)

१८. ८. ४५.

CHIEF MINISTER
Orissa.

Cuttack,

17th August 1946. 9)

D.O.No./518/HPM dated 17.8.46

Revered Bapuji,

Had not your advice been most urgently needed, I would not have troubled you with this letter when you are so busy with so many difficult problems.

You know the major problem of Orissa is floods, and you will please remember that in 1937, during the last Congress Ministry, you were good enough to help the then-Government with the services of Sir Viseswariya to investigate into the causes of floods in Orissa and suggest preventive measures against them. Sir Viseswariya recommended certain temporary measures and for the permanent preventive measures he suggested that the rivers should be dammed at suitable places. But this last recommendation was shelved on account of the huge cost it would involve. Subsequently in 1943 owing to a very high flood and considerable destruction, the then Government had another enquiry to be held by Mr. Rangiya, who also recommended the dam system, but again the whole idea went to the background because of its financial implication. At that time the Govt. of India sanctioned the Damodar Valley project in order to save Bengal from floods; because of the famine of 1943 Bengal was prominently before the eye of Govt. of India. So a very huge sum was sanctioned to give relief to Bengal. Sri A.V. Thakker, President, Orissa Relief Committee, fortunately came to the rescue of our poor province just at the right time. He wrote some articles in the Times of India, Bombay, drawing the attention of Govt. of India to the river Mahanadi of this province. I think, on account of this or something else I do not know, Govt. of India at last came forward to sanction the scheme of harnessing the river Mahanadi with dam system. Accordingly Mr. Khosla the Chief Engineer of Govt. of India, undertook serial survey of the river and tentatively three sites were selected for construction of three dams. These are multi-purpose dams,

for these will not only control flood but also they will convert the entire river into a canal direct from the most inland district of Sambalpur to the sea, thus enabling steamers to go up and down throughout the year. These canals also will irrigate millions of acres of lands; besides the river at the dams will generate electricity sufficient enough to help industries in Orissa. The whole scheme would approximately cost about Rs. 50 crores. On the face of it the scheme is a very attractive one, and before we assumed office, I wrote to the then Governor Sir Hawthorne Lewis appreciating this measure of the British Government which I described as the biggest constructive work that the British Govt. had ever done in Orissa.

Now the scheme is about to be put into operation. The first step is preliminary survey for which about Rs.16 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Govt. of India. I had a talk with the Viceroy last time when I saw him about this scheme and I requested him that this scheme should not be allowed to be shelved again. So far as my information goes, there will be no slackness at that end. But the difficulty that has arisen in this province is the public agitation against acquisition of land for the purpose of construction of dam. The construction of these dams will entail submerging of a number of villages nearabout and these villages have to be shifted from the present position to another position. Alternative sites and lands will be given to these displaced villagers. Besides, ample compensation will be given but the inconvenience of shifting from one place to the other is there. Taking advantage of this, some of our public men, instead of explaining the utility of the dams to the villagers are working them up against the scheme. In this agitation some of our Congressmen also are involved. These gentlemen have their own interest to lose in the whole scheme. Some of them are landlords of the place. In the district of Sambalpur where the dam is to be constructed, the agitation has gathered considerable volume. We are trying our best to persuade our people to adopt the

doctrine of the "greatest good to the greatest number". I think we will be able to minimise the agitation as far as possible. But I would like to know from you what is to be our duty in these circumstances. Planning is the order of the day and planning and democracy must go together, otherwise one will be sacrificed for the other. Of course, this is a new experiment, and I feel very much interested in going through this experiment. It will be very much helpful if you will kindly advise me ^{as to} how to proceed in this matter. Supposing the agitation ^{is} against the dam grows in volume, shall we abandon this scheme and leave the province to perpetual destruction ⁱⁿ floods, or shall we push through the scheme somehow? ^{to}

I shall be very much obliged if you will kindly express yourself in favour of this kind of schemes so ^{that} it might have a soothing effect on the agitators.

So far as Congress organisation is concerned, I do not think it is disciplined enough to control its members in all respects. That is the whole trouble with us. The only controlling factor, I believe, is yourself, and unless you come to our rescue, do not think all our plannings will be successful.

Yours sincerely,

H.K. Mahtab.

Mahatma Gandhi,
Wardha.

*Congress
Ministry.*

43

New Delhi, 11th Sept. 1946.

My dear Mahatma,

I have your letter of the 6th instant.

You have referred to two matters in your letter. First, about opening a Broadcasting Station for Orissa. This question will be examined along with the whole question of the extension of broadcasting in India.

The second one is in connection with the Hirakud Dam of Mahanadi Valley project. About this I had seen your letter to Gandhiji, and I had advised Sri. Sarat Bose to send Mr. Khosla, the Engineer in charge of this scheme, to go and explain the whole project personally to him. I understand he is doing so. As soon as he has finished doing so, you will come to know of it and I shall attend to the matter.

In such big projects, a considerable amount of hardship is bound to entail on account of the displacement of villages involved in the scheme. The poor villagers do not easily understand the benefit of such schemes; they are concerned primarily with their own immediate inconveniences caused on account of their being dis-housed and they are naturally unwilling to leave their own ancestral huts, however poor they may be. It is up to the Provincial Government concerned to make it easy for them to go elsewhere, where better accommodation can be provided for with good compensation and other facilities. Educative propaganda will have to be started on a wider scale.

Perhaps you are aware that in the Tata Hydro-Electric scheme of Bombay, when it was first undertaken, a similar situation arose, where in Musipeta a Satyagraha was started by the peasants whose lands and houses were affected. Several people were sent to jail and this agitation was led by local Congress leaders.

The Congress has advanced much more since those days and it would be easy for us, now being in power, to control and guide the agitation in proper channels. Two of your Members

(4)

44

are, according to your letter, carrying on agitation against the dam. It should be open to you to take disciplinary action against them. They have no business to agitate outside. They are members of your Party and they can only discuss such matters in the Party. They are free to discuss this also in the Congress Organisation, but the decisions of the Party and the Congress Committee must be binding on them; and if they do not accept such decisions, they must resign their Assembly seats and go out. You have not given the names of these people--otherwise, I would have written to them.

I trust you are making steady progress in the field of administration. Your Province must lead in building up the reputation of Congress Ministries.

Hope you are doing well.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) Vallabhbhai Patel.

The Honourable Mr. Harekrishna Mahtab,
Chief Minister, Orissa,
CUTTACK.

signed
H. K. Mahtab



95
CUTTACK,

The 6th September, 1946
7

D.O.no. 1554/H.P.M.

Revered Sardarji,

I have been thinking of writing to you for the last several weeks but in view of your present engagements I thought I should rather wait. Now I have to write to you not only as our leader but also as an important Member of the Government of India with whom we have to deal with officially. Even in official matters it is my experience that demi-official letters speed up a lot of matters rather than official correspondence. Before you assumed office, our Governor used to keep this Provincial Government in touch with the Government of India through personal correspondence, but now the work has devolved upon me.

We have been agitating for a broadcasting station for Orissa for a number of years. Last time when I saw Sir Akbar Hydari in May 1946 I pressed our demand before him and he agreed to give high priority for a broadcasting station in Orissa. Now I understand the matter is still under consideration of the Government of India. I would request you to kindly take personal interest in the matter and see that our case is given the highest priority. Even before the Interim Government came in, I used to impress upon the Government of India that they should show ~~special~~ special consideration to our province because of our backwardness and of poverty for which her people are not responsible. I have no doubt, under your regime, our province would be shown more preferential treatment than before.

As regards our work in the province, it is going on smoothly except for one thing, i.e. the construction of Hirakud Dam of the Mahanadi Valley Project. Two of our Members of the Assembly are carrying on an agitation against the dam because it entails displacement of 200 villages which are required for the reservoir area of the dam. You will know about this project from Mr. Gokhale who is there in the Government of India as the Secretary of the Department of Works, Mines and Power. It will be of immense help to me if you kindly write to me your opinion about the dam after knowing all details about it from Mr. Gokhale.

(X)

Hope you are keeping good health.

Yours sincerely,

Harekrushna

(Harekrushna Mahtab)

Sardar Ballabhbhai Patel,
Member of the Executive Council,
New Delhi.

16th Aug. 46

Personal.

My dear Mahatab,

Shri Sarangadhar Das writes to me that he wants to resign from the Orissa Assembly. I am enclosing herewith a copy of the reply that I have given to him. If you think that he is not cooperating with you or would not do any useful work in the Party, you had better relieve him instead of keeping him as a disgruntled member.

Yours sincerely,

Encl:

Hon. Mr. Hare Krushna Mahatab,
Prime Minister of Orissa,
CUTTACK.



97
16th Aug. 46

Dear friend,

I have received your letter of the 27th July or the 9th August. It is regrettable that you propose to resign from the Legislative Assembly simply because you are elected to the Constituent Assembly or because you were not taken as a Minister. If you entered the Assembly with the expectation of getting any office or being selected for any Committee, you made a mistake. No member elected to the Assembly should expect or aspire for any office.

If, however, you think that you cannot do any useful work in the Assembly, you must approach the Leader of your Party and get his permission or you can get the permission of your Party. Discipline requires that, for the reasons that you have stated, no resignation could be given.

Yours sincerely,

Shri Sarangadhar Das, M.L.A.,
'Punascha',
Angul P.O.
Cuttack Dist.
Orissa.

cc to Shri Mahatab.

9/46

'Punaseha',
Angul P.O.,
Cuttack Dist.,
Orissa,
31.7.46.

98

Revered Sardarji,

I enclose herewith copies of two letters addressed to our Party Leader, Sri Mahataji, which are self-explanatory. The second letter dated 13.7.46 was considered in our Party meeting of the 14th July, and Sri Mahataji was good enough to make a reference to my letter of the 12th April also; and the Party resolved to accept it, and to recommend to the Central Parliamentary Board to grant the required permission. But I learnt yesterday from our Party Secretary that he has not yet sent up this matter and the relevant papers to you. During the last ten days or so I mentioned the matter in Cuttack to Sri Mahataji three or four times, and he invariably said that it would be done. I have no idea as to why he is putting it off; and I am therefore compelled to make this appeal to you in the hope that you will permit me, through our leader, to resign from the Orissa Legislative Assembly.

Whatever might have been my error in judging the unanimous resolutions of the two Committees mentioned in my second letter under reference, and the words of some of my prominent colleagues, I regret the whole episode; and I have no mind in parliamentary work any more, and I wish to be relieved of the responsibility at the earliest possible moment, so that the electorate's interests may be looked after by a freshly elected member. But, I cannot break the discipline of the Party and resign without obtaining prior permission.

There is postal strike just now, but, as our local Post office is accepting all mails except those intended for Calcutta, Bengal, and Assam, I am hoping that this will reach you. If I do not hear from you in two weeks' time, I shall have to wire to you.

With respectful regards, I am,

Yours Sincerely,
Sarangadhar Das

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Chairman,
Central Parliamentary Board,
Bombay.

I

copy.

99

Swarajyapuram,
Cuttack,
April 23, 1946.

Dear friend, Since my interview with you yesterday, I have considered the matter still further, and have come to the conclusion that, if merit and selfless service are not, as it seems, the deciding factors in selecting the personnel of the ministry, I feel that I do not command your confidence, and hence my being in the Orissa Legislative Assembly in the present set up will serve no useful purpose. I am therefore requesting you to allow me, at your earliest convenience, to resign from the Assembly. Wishing you the best of success in your new field of service, I remain,

Yours sincerely,
Sd. Sarvagadhar Das

Sri Hanakrishna Mahatab,
Leader of the Congress Assembly Party,
Swarajyapuram,
Cuttack.

II

Copy

Sarangpuram,
Cuttack.
13.7.46.

100

Sri Hanumanthra mahatah,
Leader, Congress Assembly Party,
Cuttack.

Dear friend, As per our conversation of yesterday I am writing you asking for your permission to resign from the Orissa Legislative Assembly immediately.

In this connection I have to refer you to my letter of the 13rd April addressed to you seeking your permission to resign, when you asked me to wait for sometime. Shortly after that I fell ill in August, and during your visit there you pressed me to wait till the election to the Constituent Assembly, and I agreed.

Now, in the Party meeting of the 11th July you stressed the importance of the Orissa States amalgamation proposal as one of the four problems, and of the States Indian States problem generally, and stated that the All-India States Peoples Conference had recommended my name as a candidate to the Constituent Assembly. The trend of discussion however, in which several members took part surprised me, and I was grieved to find that many do not realise the gravity of the Indian States problem vis-a-vis Constitution-making for future Free India, but that some twist the real facts in order to misguide the rest of the Party. The result was a foregone conclusion and my candidature was rejected in regular voting.

No doubt, I take the verdict of the democratic organisation in a sporting spirit. But, you will agree with me that the willing service in the cause of freedom that I have, during nearly a decade, rendered to the people of the provinces as well as of the States has failed to inspire my colleagues' confidence in me. It is also reluctant to mention here that I was not at all willing to stand as a candidate for the Orissa Legislative Assembly, as I had decided, while in jail, to devote the rest of my life to constructive work. However, when in the early part of January, 1946 both the Cuttack District Congress Committee and the Provincial Congress Committee unanimously passed resolutions pressing yourself, Sri Nalakraishna Chaudhary, Sri Malati Chaudhary and myself to stand, and many of my eminent friends pointed out that I must go to the Constituent Assembly in order to make my contribution with regard to the future status of the States, I finally succumbed to the general wishes of those democratic organisations. But, I now find the situation changed in the Assembly Party, many members of which were a party to the passing of the above resolutions. It is quite possible that my usefulness, in the eyes of my colleagues, has changed for the worse in this short span of six months.

Whatever the cause may be, it is clear proof that it is my misfortune that my decade's selfless service has not been enough to command the confidence, either of yourself, as stated in my previous letter, or of my colleagues, as evidenced in the Party vote. And I have therefore definitely decided to retire from parliamentary politics, and to revert to constructive work.

Under the circumstances I shall be obliged to you to permit me to resign from the Assembly immediately.

Thanking you for your many courtesies and with regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,
S. Sarangadhar Das.

PRATAP SINGH.

10)
Post Box No. 2158,
Calcutta.

I enclose herewith a statement in lieu of Prospectus for the Orissa Textile Mills Ltd., which gives all the merits and special features of the scheme.

This is the first Mill to be sponsored in the Province. The Govt. are backing it fully, by having given first priority, purchasing shares to the extent of Rs. 15 lakhs, procuring land for the Company, arranging for Railway Siding, and giving all possible help in procuring plant, materials, etc. Every effort to get the Plant within the shortest time possible is being made.

You will observe the third seat on the Board is vacant. It is reserved for a Government nominee whose name is still awaited.

Mr. H.K. Mahtab, the Premier of Orissa was himself on the Board and had to vacate his seat on becoming Premier of Orissa. Two principal partners in the Managing Agency, Mr. B. Patnaik and myself will be actively working for the concern. Mr. Patnaik has considerable influence in the province. I have been associated with one of the country's leading industrialists, managing a big business. Cotton Milling is one of the well established industries. In the country trained technical personnel is available.

I have already dealt with the availability of the raw materials, coal, labour and nearness to market. Cuttack, where the Mill is to be located, is one of the biggest centres of the hand-loom industry. There is always a large and ready demand for yarn.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association comply with the rules and regulations of the Calcutta Stock Exchange and the shares will be quoted on the Stock Exchange soon after allotment.

I shall be pleased to furnish any other information you require.

You will be glad to hear that Lala Gurusaran Lal has agreed to join the Board of the Orissa Textile Mills Ltd. As President of the Federation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and one of the leading industrialists in the country, he will be an asset to us.

101A

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT,
ORISSA.

No.2409 (4) Ind.

Dated Cuttack, 10th March 46.

To Sri Madanlal Bohanlal,
7 Lyons Range, Calcutta.
Orissa Textile Mills Ltd.,
Anand Bhawan, Tulsipur, Cuttack.
Orissa Cotton Mills Ltd.,
P. S. Roy Choudhury Bazar, Cuttack.
Usha Spg. & Wvg. Cotton Mills,
Birla Bros., A.R. Sambalpur.

Sub: Application for establishing cotton Mills
in Orissa.

Government of Orissa have decided that 4 cotton mills should be established in the province of Orissa and the following four applicants will have licence to procure machinery with specified spindleage according to the order of priority noted below:

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Spindles.</u>
1. The Orissa Textile Mills, Messrs. B. Patnaik, Anand Bhawan, Tulsipur, Cuttack.	44,000
2. The Orissa Cotton Mills, Messrs. Pyari Shankar Roy, Choudhury Bazar, Cuttack.	25,000
3. Usha Spg. & Wvg. Cottons Mills, Birla Bros., A.R. Sambalpur.	25,000
4. Messrs. Madanlal Bohanlal, Madanlal Jodia, Calcutta. (Mill to be established in Berhampur, South Orissa).	25,000

sd/-
For Addl. Director of Industries.

CHIEF MINISTER
ORISSA.

D.O. No. 159/HPM/S/46
Cuttack, 31st May 1946.

Dear Mr. Dharmavira,

I thank you for your letter No. PMP/3703 dated 15th May 1946.

After a detailed consideration of nationalisation of Textile Industry in Orissa, we have now formally decided to delay such a policy for the period of 3 to 5 years, till we have built up a strong technical personnel in this province. We have now, in accordance with your suggestion decided to leave all our recommendations as they are and would be very glad if you now instruct the recommended operators to place orders for machinery as soon as possible.

Although you are emphatic with regard to delivery of machinery

being delayed in the queue, I would nevertheless request you to try your level best and see that atleast 44,000 spindles (25,000 coarse, 19,000 fine) which are on No.1 priority list of our recommendations, in favour of Orissa Textile Mills Ltd., have the highest priority of delivery. I would even request you to see to it that these 44,000 spindles be given a delivery of not more than 10 to 12 months. I am told that you enjoy a considerable amount of popularity with the manufacturers and I am sure you will go a little out of the way to help this very backward province to establish a mill at an early date.

Hope to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

sd/- H.Mahtab:

Dharam Vira, Esq., O.B.E.,
Textile Commissioner,
Hararwala Bldg.,
BOMBAY.

CHIEF MINISTER,
ORISSA.

103
D.O. No.212,
Cuttack.
4th June 46.

Dear Mr. Atkinson,

You would probably be surprised at my writing to you like this but I have always believed in direct approach to the man concerned and I hope that the result of this letter will justify my opinion.

2. My Government has, for unavoidable reasons, delayed in recommending operating companies to Textile Commissioner for import licence to purchase spindles from U.K. Consequently, Orissa, in usual course, will receive the spindles last, which may be several years hence. This province is as you know most backward and needs all forms of encouragement. I would, therefore, request you to give early delivery period to atleast a part of the spindlage allotted to us.

3. In our recommendations to Textile Commissioner, Bombay, we have placed Orissa Textile Mills Ltd. as No.1 on priority list and we have allotted to this company 44,000 spindles (25,000 coarse of 20s and 19,000 fine 40s counts). If you could possibly arrange to deliver these spindles within 12 months, this province would indeed be grateful to you and I am sure Orissa will continue to look forward to good business relations with your firm.

4. Orissa possesses unlimited mineral wealth and hydro-electric potentialities and Government is considering early exploitation of the same. In view of the fact that your firm retains a number of highly skilled Engineer and Technologists, we would in very near future make a demand on your personnel and I hope you will not disappoint us.

5. Capt. B. Patnaik, M.L.A., Managing Director of Orissa Textile Mills Ltd. will proceed to Bombay by the end of this month. He will meet you and talk over the possibilities of drafting in the aid of your engineers to Orissa. Besides, I am sure, you will not disappoint him with regard to early delivery of his 44,000 spindles.

6. I have also written to Dharam Vira, Textile Commissioner, Bombay, regarding early allocation of spindlage. You may, if you are to, make reference to him.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- H. Mahtab.

G. Atkinson, Esq.,
General Manager,
Indian Textile Engineers Ltd.,
43 Forbes St., BOMBAY.

104

The Hon'ble Sri H.K.Mahtab.

CHIEF MINISTER
ORISSA.
D.O.No.515/HPM.

CUTTACK
The 24th June 46.

Dear Mr.Rippon,

I am writing to you direct with the hope that the case which I am going to put forward to you will receive your just and due attention. My province, Orissa, is probably one of the most backward tracts in the whole world as far as industries are concerned. I and my Govt. are extremely anxious to industrialise this area as fast as possible.

2. Government of India have allocated to our province 1,00,000 coarse spindles and 19,000 fine spindles. It would indeed be a noble gesture if you would consider giving a portion of this spindlage (25,000 coarse and 19,000 fine) a priority of delivery, thus enabling the same to be imported into India within one year from now. These 44,000 spindles have been allotted to Orissa Textile Mills, a new and local company, which has full support of this Government.

3. I am not unaware of the fact that your factories are overwhelmingly occupied with supplying textile machinery to Russia, China, Latin America and several other countries of the world. I am putting forth a claim from a hopelessly undeveloped area and I am confident that you will do your best to meet our case.

I sincerely hope that some day we will meet.

Yours sincerely,

sd/- H.Mahtab.

Rippon, Esq.,
C/o Messrs.Platt Bros.,
Textile Machinery Manufacturers,
Oldham,
Lancashire,
England.

105
31st July 46

My dear Mahtab,

I have not heard from you since a long time. The Post and Telegraph strike has dislocated all contacts and communications and therefore I have been isolated more or less from the outside world, except what little information we are getting from newspapers. I am sending this letter with your colleague who is returning from Poona.

I read about some communal riot somewhere in Orissa. I wonder why should there be any such riot, where the Muslim population is insignificant. I hope there is nothing serious behind it.

I am anxious to hear from you about your plan and programme for the current year. You have an opportunity to do constructive work, which must be fully utilised. You have many facilities which other provinces have not got, and they should be fully exploited in order to be able to demonstrate what an Indian administration can do if there are opportunities.

Shri B. Das met me while he was on his way to Rajkot. He seems quite pleased with Orissa affairs. I found him much

improved in health also.

I hope your relations with your Governor are happy, and cordial and there is perfect cooperation between you and him.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Mr. Hare Krishna Mahtab,
Premier of Orissa,
CUTTACK.

100
3rd July 46.

Personal.

My dear Pantab,

I do not know whether you will be able to come to Bombay for the A.I.C.C. But in case you may not come, I write this to you to make some important suggestions for the Constituent Assembly elections in your province.

last time

Shri B. Das was excluded from the Central Assembly on the ground of his ill-health. He is terribly disappointed and subsequently I was told that he was quite fit to be able to attend and work for the province. If he is selected to the Constituent Assembly, his grievance may be minimised and he may have no sense of injustice left in him. I would therefore suggest that his name may be included, in case he is found to be physically fit to work. There will be about 400 members in the Constituent Assembly from all over India. Except in Committees, there will not be much work to do.

Another name I have to suggest is of one man named Hail Bahadur Achyutananda Purohit of Sambalpur. He seems to have a very good record as a lawyer and he is likely to make

his contribution in the constitution-making body, particularly in Committees also. Although he ~~seems~~ is a title-holder, we have made exceptions in the case of selection of experts and lawyers of eminence and ability, such as Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Rt. Hon. M.R. Jayakar, etc. From the report I have received, I find that Achyutanand is an able and experienced lawyer. Sambalpur may well be satisfied with his selection and their grievance may disappear. This may also be a representation from the Excluded Areas.

I have also sent you a telegram today suggesting these two names in order to avoid delay.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Mr. Harekrishna Mahtab,
Prime Minister, Orissa Government,
Cuttack.

Express

HON HAREKRUSHNA MANTAB
PREMIER
CUTTACK

suggest inclusion constituent assembly candidates b das if
physically fit and raibahadur achyutananda purohit
government pleader sambalpur

3.6.46

vallabhbhai

108

Camp: Birla House,
New Delhi.
25th June 46.

My dear Mahtab,

I have received your telegram of 22nd inst. Your reply is quite alright. But some people are carrying on propaganda in Orissa without understanding the matter in its proper perspective. We have already rejected the Interim Govt. proposals and the question of your being appointed there therefore does not arise.

I have also received your express telegram of the 18th inst. which is quoted below;

"confusing press reports stop received viceroys invitation this afternoon stop have replied inability give final decision until hear from working committee stop not receiving any instruction regarding election members constituent assembly stop please advise"

You have to proceed with the Constituent Assembly election, as we have already accepted the long-term scheme concerning it this morning.

(+)

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Mr. Hare Krushna Mahtab,
Prime Minister of Orissa,
Cuttack

express

hon harekrushna mahtab
premier
cuttack

proceed with arrangements election constituent assembly as
congress accepts these proposals

vallabhbhai

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Birla House, New Delhi. 25.6.46

(+)

110

1121



X LA CUTTACK 22 STE

SARDAR BALLABHBHAI PATEL BIRLA HOUSE NEW DELHI

WIRED VICEROY YESTERDAY DECLINING ACCEPT INVITATION JOINING INTERIM
GOVT AND REQUESTING NOMINATE CONGRESS PRESIDENTS NOMINEE-

- MAHTAB -- LN 466--

KSS-16/30-

(+)

11/
BY EXPRESS TELEGRAM

STATE

**SARDAR BALLABHBHAI PATEL
BIRLA HOUSE
NEWDELHI**

**CONFUSING PRESS REPORTS STOP RECEIVED
VICEROY'S INVITATION THIS AFTERNOON STOP HAVE
REPLIED INABILITY GIVE FINAL DECISION UNTIL
HEAR FROM WORKING COMMITTEE STOP NOT
RECEIVING ANY INSTRUCTION REGARDING ELECTION
MEMBERS CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY STOP PLEASE
ADVISE**

HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB

Not to be telegraphed;

**From - Hon'ble Sri Harekrushna Mahtab,
Prime Minister, Orissa,
Cuttack.**

Dated the 18th June, 1946.

K. B. B.

**Stenographer to the Hon'ble
Prime Minister.**

*Copy put in
by confirmation
K.B.B.*

(4)

112

Camp, Chadwick,
Simla W.

13th May 46.

Dear friend,

I have received your letter without date. I do not think that your case can be reopened now. The present Prime Minister of Orissa cannot do anything in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Shri Bhagat Ballav Das,
Dewan Bhawan,
Kalyanpur.
P.O. Nashru.
Via Jaipur.
B.N.Hy.

Dear Sardar Sahib,

13⁵/₄₀

113

Dawan Khadan
Kalyanpur
P.O. Machhwa
Sik. Dist. Sahib

Like a drowning man catches at a straw, I have been advised by friends to approach you with the grievances of mine in connection with the great injustice done in my pension can by the Orissa Govt. up to 93. For about 20 years I served in the 4 states of Khandhara, Bamra, Bilaspur & Raurakhol under the E. S. A. Before my 1st deputation to the Khandhara state on the 1st April 1918 I was an Asst. in the then Orissa Commis. Office - Throughout the entire period of my service in the above states, pension and leave contribution were paid by the concerned states, as a security for my future pension - The Govt. of India order contained in letter no. F.1(26) R.1(33) of 15.1.34 was interpreted as being applicable to my case, which stated that deputation to Foreign Service on or after 5th Sept. 1928 should be considered as fresh deputation and pension should be calculated on the pay in British Indian Service and not on the state pay. As the deputation from one state to the other was ordered in the exigencies of the public service and not at my request the India Govt. order was not applicable to my case but the Supdt. of the Orissa Commis. Office tenaciously held that it was applicable. And my pension was sanctioned at -

the matter of applicability of the said order was referred to the Political Agent, Orissa states & Comptroller of Orissa for opinion but both of them opined that the point should be referred to the Local Govt. for a clear decision but no reference was made by the Comm'n Office - Thus I fell a victim to the whimsical & capricious interpretation of the Govt. of India Order by a ministerial officer of immature experience - Against the order of the Rev: Comm'n fixing my pension @ Rs 37/8/- p.m. I submitted a representation to the Prime Minister of Bihar Nath Rao, who granted to me a monthly pension of Rs 70/- on the ground of Hardship - The point of applicability of the Govt. of India ^{order} ~~com~~ in my case did not arise & it was left untouched - Curiously enough the En-Prime Minister's orders were turned down by H.E. the Governor - I submitted a memorial to H.E. the Governor as advised by the then Rev: Secy: but I was informed that I was not entitled to more than Rs 37/8/- originally sanctioned by the Revenue Comm'n - I served the 4 states of Khandhara, Bamra, Atgarh & Rairakhol as Diwan, Super & Int: super for about 20 years and I don't think it was the intention of the Political Authorities to undermine all my loyal & faithful services rendered to the above states by thus reducing my pension, which is unprecedented in the annals

of the Foreign Service -

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It would in the circumstances urge that the present Prime Minister of Orissa Mr Mahapat may be asked to review the whole case and restore the order of the Ex-Prime Minister Mr B.N. Das if he be of the opinion that I am not entitled to Rs 145/- which I claimed - The rankling of my heart will be soothed if the Govt. of India be asked to give a ruling whether the Govt. of India's orders are applicable to my case -

When the last Congress Ministry took office the Govt. of India gave a solemn promise that the Provincial Governors would not interfere with the discharge of their Ministers in the discharge of their public duties but my humble case is a clear instance of how that pledge was trampled - As you are in Simla you may do well to refer the matter to Lord Rethien Lawrence, the Secy. of State for India

with Nomaskor

Jai Hind

Yours sincerely
Bhagat Ballav Das
Ex-Secretary Bikaner
(B.S.A.) - (Sd/-)

P.S. Under the Civil Service
Regulation, Code & Fundamentals
Rule pension is calculated
on the average of three years
emolument previous to retirement
but calculation of my pension
has not been made according
to this - i.e. on my pay of Rs 90/- p.m.

116
Camp: Birla House,
Albuquerque Rd.,
New Delhi.

30th April 46

My dear Mahtab,

I have received your letter of the 24th inst. I am glad things are going on smoothly there. We are going to Simla as the Delegation proposes to carry on further work from there, but we hope it will not be longer than a fortnight at the outset.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Mr. Hare Krishna Mahtab,
Premier,
CUTTACK.

हरेकृष्ण महताब

117
कटक (ओड़िसा)

कटक Cuttack
दिनांक 24.4.46.
वतः

Revered Sirdarji,

I thank you for your letters of the 16th (marked confidential) and 18th inst. As regards your first letter I shall take the necessary steps to get the maximum quota for Orissa from Govt. of India Fund. With regard to your second letter please refer to my express telegram dated the 24th April, 46, which reads as follows:-

"Assumed office yesterday with four other ministers Nabakrishna Chowdhury Nityananda Kanango Lingraj Misra Radhakrishna Biswasroy Everything smooth - Mahtab"

I hope everything is going on happily in Delhi.

With my kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

H. Mahtab

Sardar Ballabhbhai Patel.
Birla House,
New Delhi.

(f)

118
Camp:
Birla House,
New Delhi.
18th Apr. 46

My dear Mahtab,

I am enclosing herewith copy of a telegram received from the Utkal Indian Christian Association and a copy of my reply. I should like to know the final date on which your party meeting has been called for the election of Leader and the probable date on which you propose to form the ministry. Also give me full details of the composition of the proposed ministry.

Yours sincerely,

Encl:

Shri Hare Krushna Mahtab,
Orissa P.C.C.,
Cuttack.



119
Camp;
Birla House,
Albuquerque Rd.,
N.Delhi. 18th Apr. 46

Dear friend,

I have received your telegram of the 17th inst. reading:

"ORISSA CHRISTIANS URGE INCLUSION
OF CHRISTIAN MEMBER IN THE ORISSA
CABINET"

The formation of ministry rests with the Leader of the Assembly Party of the Congress in Orissa. The elections are not yet over and the leader is not elected, but I understand that Shri Hare Krushna Mahtab will in all probability be elected as Leader. If you have to make any suggestion about the formation of the ministry, you should approach him and if you can satisfy him about the necessity of including an Indian Christian, he will certainly do so. It is not, however, possible to include members of all castes and creeds in the cabinet in a small province like Orissa, and it is also unnecessary to rely upon such inclusion as the only means of serving the community. Congress thinks in terms of nationalism and the cabinet members, though they may have been selected from any community, are expected to serve all the people of Orissa without any distinction.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary,
Utkal Indian Xian Assn.,

Cuttack.



E.T.B.

335

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INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

No.

Recd. at _____	M. _____	Sent at _____	M. _____	
From _____		To _____		
By _____		By _____		

O ME CUTTACK 17 22 PATEL CONG SSORFICE DELHI

ORISSA CHRISTIANS URGE INCLUSION OF CHRISTIAN MEMBER IN THE ORISSA CABINET

B PRADHAN UTKAL INDIAN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

(4)

519 121

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

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Date

Hour

Minute

Service Instructions

Remarks

TO

Recd. from at

H.

O QI SARADA 16-17 MR PATEL PRESIDENT CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY BOARD
DELHI:-

PRAY SELECT MR LALMOHAN PATHAK FOR ORISSA CABINET:- PRESIDENT
LN 432

N.B.—The name of the sender, if telegraphed, should be written after, but separated from, the code.

The Air Force, Ltd.—S/26—100,000 Rs.—June 1915.

To

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Chairman, Congress Parliamentary Board, Delhi.

122

Respected Sir,

The unfortunate District of Sambalpur has been most unduly labelled as a Partially Excluded Area and as such it has been made to confront numerous knotty problems crying for immediate solutions. The proposed Hira Kud Embankment (of the Government of India) shall go in no time to render the inhabitants of 135 villages entirely homeless and the matter of proper indemnities has got to be taken up by a strong and powerful hand on behalf of the inarticulate and inecuous people. The drink -problem of the District is serious to a degree in as much as the Out-still system of the Government has been responsible for the consuming of twice as much of gallons of wine than the gallons consumed by the District of Cuttack, - Puri and Balasore put together.

The peasants have no right over their land in the matter of transfer and this is yet another arduous problem to be tackled satisfactorily without delay.

In view of all these as also multifarious other problems which can not be put forth within the small compass of representation like this, We do strongly urge that Mr. Laxminarayan Misra, M.L.A. of our District be given a place in the Orissa Cabinet because of his fitness to manage matters in a selfless and self-sacrificing spirit.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

Lachitendra Misra

Secretary, Students' Congress,
Bargarh.
Dist. Sambalpur (Orissa)

Bargarh, dated the 16th
April 1946.

123
Camp:
Birla House,
Albuquerque Rd.,
New Delhi. 24th April
46.

Dear friend,

I have received your letter of the 8th inst. No decision about the composition of ministry in Orissa has yet been taken and any reports appearing in the press about it must be regarded as mere speculation.

As your qualifications are wellknown to Shri Mehtab, who is in all probability going to be the Prime Minister, it is unnecessary for you to put forward your case before us. The selection of ministers rests largely with the Prime Minister, who has to choose his own comrades. No ministry can function efficiently, unless the Prime Minister is given full freedom to form a homogenous cabinet of his own choice, as there is joint responsibility in its working.

Yours sincerely,

Shri Uma Charan Patnaik,
Dist. Congress Committee Office,
Berhampur.
(Ganjam Dt.),
Orissa.

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District Congress Committee Office,
Berhampur (Ganjam Dt.), Orissa

The 8th April, 1946.

[Respected Sardarji,

Having read in today's newspapers that you want to have five ministers for Orissa, one of them representing the Partially Excluded Areas, I beg leave to place the following facts before you for such decision as you deem desirable.]

I am one of the Congress candidates for Berhampur constituency and it is very likely that I am being returned to the Orissa Assembly. Counting of votes is to take place tomorrow and the day after. If you find no other suitable candidate to represent the partially excluded areas, I request that you will be pleased to go through the following few lines.

I come from Bodagada Estate which is partly in the Partially Excluded Areas. In the last Orissa Assembly, I had represented the main Partially Excluded Areas, having been elected for the Balliguda Khondmals constituency. This time also it was expected that I would be nominated for either Ghumsur or Balliguda Khondmals (the former partly and the latter wholly being Partially Excluded Areas) but for some reason or other, you were pleased to set me up in Berhampur for which constituency I had not applied.

I am the only Congressman in Orissa who has mastered an Aborigine language--the Khond. During my two and a half years in jail (1942-1945) I wrote three books in Khond, improvising a script for what was then a dialect. The Khonds are the largest Aborigine tribe of Orissa, numbering 8,94,904 in Ganjam, Koraput and adjacent Orissan States. My articles on the hill tracts of Orissa published in the Modern Review of August and October 1945 and in the Amrita Bazar Sunday

Supplement will be sent to you shortly.

After my release from jail I opened in March 1945 an Ashram at Kontaipalli, a Khond village and spent my time serving the Khonds till about July 1945 when Shree H. K. Mahtab required my services to reorganise the district as the Secretary of the District Congress Workers Assembly and later as the Secretary, District Congress Committee, which I still am.

As Secretary of the Workers Assembly I started three centres -- at G.Udayagiri, Tikballi and Phulbani -- in the heart of the Partially Excluded Areas.

I was Public Prosecutor and Government Pleader for about 2½ years in the two Sessions divisions of Ganjam (Plains) and Ganjam Agency (Partially Excluded Areas) till November 1940 when I resigned the posts as a protest against the Ordinance regime which X started with the conviction of Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru. I then organised the Satyagraha campaign in Ganjam Plains and Ganjam Agency (Partially Excluded Areas) as the Satyagraha Dictator till I myself courted imprisonment in February 1941.

In January 1941 I had been deputed by the Orissa Congress to enquire into the Savara-Pano disturbances in the Aboriginee Areas, to submit a report called for by Mahatma ji.

[With my intimate contact with the Aboriginees and Aboriginee Areas, I believe that Orissa has the best possibilities for development; in fact my article in the Modern Review on this subject is entitled "An Indian Siberia" whereby I proved that as the latent possibilities of Siberia came to the rescue of the U.S.S.R. during recent years, the mineral, forest and hydro-electric possibilities of the

Partially Excluded Areas of Orissa will be Free India's greatest asset.

I had recently been deputed by Shree H.K. Mahtab, on behalf of the Orissa Congress, to assist in the defence of Shazada Col. Burhanuddin of the I.N.A. In addition to the actual court work, I compiled an authentic history of the Azad Hind Fauj. I ^{am} ~~here~~ ^{by registered post} with ~~enclosure~~ a copy of my report to the I.N.A. Defence Committee and to Shree H.K. Mahtab and also a copy of the "Book Review" column of the Indian Spectator of Delhi dated 11--3--1946.

I was a lawyer with about 15 years ~~EXPERIENCE~~ practice when I gave up practice in 1940. I was also President (and Chairman) of the District Board and Councillor of Berhampur Municipality for some time.

[If you think that I may be given a fair trial, I will do my best to harness the latent possibilities of the undeveloped Partially Excluded Areas for India's prosperity, side by side with improving the lot of the Aborigines.]

Shri Jit Mahtab knows me very well, and I believe, will answer any enquiry regarding me. Mr. Asaf Ali also knows my work as one of the I.N.A. defence lawyers.

Namasthe and Jai Hind.

Yours obediently,

Uma Charan Pattnaik

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THE BERHAMPUR ANDHRA SABHA

A. V. Subbarao, ADVOCATE, President
Rao Sahab M. Sitaramaswami &
Gade Narayanamurti,

ADVOCATES,
Joint Secretaries

Berhampur,
(Ganjam)

Dated 14th April 46.

To

Sardar Vellabhai Patel,
Care Delhi P.C.C. Delhi.

Sir,

At a mammoth meeting of Andhras of Berhampur held at the local Kedareswara Temple, under the auspices of the Andhra Sabha, Berhampur, convened for congratulating Mr. G. Narayana Murty, Advocate, on his being returned to the Orissa Assembly, for the Berhampur General Constituency, following resolutions were passed and I am authorised to communicate them to you for such action as you may think necessary.

At the meeting speeches were made recounting the worthy qualities of Mr. Narayanamurti who had inherited the public spirit of his father late Mr. G. Raghavarao who in 1909 entered the Madras Legislative Council and was responsible for many good deeds.

Mr. Narayanamurti replying thanked all the voters, both Oriyas and Andhras and assured them that he was not against Congress doctrines and that he was going to strive for the minority interests, so to say in self-defence only and without prejudice to the larger interests of Orissa in the

THE ANDHRA ASSEMBLY

-2-

Assembly:

Resolutions:

1. Surveying the position of the Ministries in Bengal, Punjab, Sind etc., this meeting of the Andhras appeals to Mahatmajee and the Congress High Command to direct that the Andhras of this Province who are no less important than the Mohammedans and Christians, be given a place in the Ministry to be formed to put an end to racial conflicts and to develop the harmonious progress of this juvenile province.
2. This meeting appeal to H.E. The Governor of Orissa to nominate one Andhra from the Koraput area to the Orissa Assembly.
3. This meeting urges on the British, if they be in earnest, to remove the thorn of Indian independence from the path of their credit in the international sphere to at once place the British India Government solely under Mahatma Gandhi as liberator of India like Stalin or Chiang Kai Shek. leave it to him to frame a constitution and face the frosts or win the smiles without further futile attempts to placate the irreconcilables.

Yours sincerely,

A. Subbarao

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5th April 46

Dear friend,

I am enclosing herewith copy of
a telegram from the Secretary of the
District Christian Association, Sambalpur.

Yours sincerely,

Encl:

Sjt. Harekrushna Mahtab,
cuttack.

129
Copy of the telegramme from the Secretary,
Sambalpur District Christian Association to the
All India Working Committee, Swaraj Ashram, Delhi.

Include Indian Christian representative in
Orissa Cabinet.

Secretary Dist. Christian Assn.

Copy of the telegramme forwarded to Sardar
V. Patel, Swaraj Ashram Delhi for information
and kind consideration.


Secretary, 28/3/46
Sambalpur Christian Association.